

May 2009



# Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

## May 3 **RANDALL HASTINGS: "Raising All Natural, Grass-Fed Beef in Baldwin County"**

*Randall Hastings is owner of Hastings Farm in Bay Minette. He and his two sons raise all-natural Rotakwa Red Devon cattle from New Zealand. The cattle are raised on grass with no hormones or antibiotics. Organic fertilizer is used. He will discuss the advantages of grass-fed vs. corn-fed beef, and free-range vs. confined cattle.*

Introduction: Harvey Joanning

## May 10 **RUTH GERACI & JUANIE NOLAND: "Mother in Children's Picture Books"**

*Picture books for young children portray mothers in a variety of ways, reflecting women's roles in society and in the family. FUF members Ruth Geraci and Juanie Noland, retired professors of education, taught children's literature courses for many years and will discuss how mothers are portrayed in the illustrations and stories of contemporary children's picture books.*

Introduction: Thelma Topper

## May 17 **MAGGIE MOSTELLER-TIMBES: "Marietta Johnson and the Organic School"**

*The School of Organic Education was established by Marietta Johnson in Fairhope in 1907. The oldest progressive school in this country, it began the same year Dr. Maria Montessori founded her school in Rome. Located in the back half of the historic Bell Building on the campus of Faulkner College, the Marietta Johnson Museum presents the history of this unique school. Maggie Mosteller-Timbess, the museum's director, will tell us why this small school in Fairhope came to have a major impact on education world-wide.*

Introduction: Juanie Noland

## May 24 **STACEY PEARCE: "Sharing Life"**

*Stacey Pearce is this area's hospital/community liaison for the Alabama Organ Center. In her four years of work with the organ center, Stacey has seen first-hand the benefits of donation, not just for the transplant recipients, but also for the family members of the donors.*

Introduction: Wilma Albers

## May 31 **MAY 31: TOM HERDER: "Do the Right Thing: Break the Plastic Bag Habit"**

*Tom Herder is Science Communicator with the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program. He has Bachelors and Masters degrees in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and has completed coursework toward a PhD in Zoology from the University of Florida.*

Introduction: Elaine Snyder-Conn

**Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the May 31st 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.

Children's Fellowship each Sunday 11 a.m.-12 noon. 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).

Email: [fairhopeunitarian@att.net](mailto:fairhopeunitarian@att.net)

## APRIL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

At the April 3 meeting, your Board of Directors:

- Approved the minutes and financial reports.
- Decided to purchase a 16' step ladder in order to reach the lights in the fellowship hall.
- Tabled the idea of installing pervious paving due to maintenance considerations and cost.
- Discussed alternative methods of making it easier for people to walk in the driveway.
- Reinstated email voting on non-critical issues where time is a problem.
- Heard from the Building Maintenance Chair about alterations being made to lighting and sound system.
- Approved SAC selling coupons at Belk as a fundraiser for their committee.
- Learned that we had raised sufficient money for WHIL to have two days of sponsorship for FUF.
- Voted to renew our insurance policy.
- Discussed switching to an electronic newsletter for those who are able to receive emails.

-Heard that the Press Register art editor was to review the current art show at FUF.

- Decided to look into AT&T voice mail instead of relying on the old answering machine.

*—Submitted by Pam Perkins*

### MAY BOARD MEETING

The monthly FUF Board meeting will be Friday, May 1 at 10am. Fellowship members are reminded that all Board meetings are open and any member is welcome to attend.

Current agenda items are the Treasurer's report, update on the electronic newsletter and new membership list, discussion of a possible UU adult education class, and another solution to the parking lot.

Anyone desiring to submit an agenda item may do so by contacting any board member.

*—Submitted by Michael Patrick*

### Summary Financial Statement March, 2009

	Mar	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Support and Revenue				
Contributions	4,274	10,382	10,500	(118)
Other Revenue	75	1,734	750	984
Total Support and Revenue	4,349	12,116	11,250	866
Expenses				
Building	1,937	5,377	7,618	(2,240)
Committees	624	2,434	2,933	(499)
Donations	450	450	700	(250)
Total Expenses	3,011	8,261	11,250	(2,989)
Net Operating Increase/ (Decrease)	1,338	3,855	0	3,855

*—Submitted by Kay Seymour*

## **REMEMBERING HENRY ALBERS**

What follows are informal and personal words about the passing of a dear man.

It is my loss that that I did not know Henry Albers for long -- not much more than two years. It was at the Fellowship's twice-monthly non-fiction discussion group that I first learned to appreciate Henry's combination of learning and humor, a matching that is far from universal among academics. He had too a gift that is even rarer -- with great sensitivity he would use humor to defuse a heated situation. About people he was perceptive. I believe his judgments were shrewd, yet he refrained from unkind words.

He was one of many of his generation who demonstrated what a wonderful reform the G.I. Bill was in allowing young veterans to exploit their full intellectual potential. Henry attended excellent universities and gave back his knowledge and wisdom, especially in astronomy, to generations of younger people, even after his official retirement. He had work that he loved and a wonderful wife, thus fulfilling two of the highest ambitions that a man can hope to achieve.

I would like to remind members (and others) that Henry wished that anyone who wants to remember him through a money gift should donate it to the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship. Those who do so should be sure to write IN MEMORY OF HENRY ALBERS on their checks.

*—Submitted by Robin Fabel*

## **REFLECTIONS ON MOTHERS**

"All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother."

-- Abraham Lincoln

"God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers."

-- Jewish proverb

"Of all the rights of women, the greatest is to be a mother."

-- Lin Yutang

"The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness."

-- Honore' de Balzac

"My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her."

—George Washington

"By and large, mothers and housewives are the only workers who do not have regular time off. They are the great vacationless class."

--Anne Morrow Lindbergh

"The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom."

-- Henry Ward Beecher

"Youth fades; love droops, the leaves of friendship fall; a mother's secret hope outlives the all."

-- Oliver Wendell Holmes

"I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life."

-- Abraham Lincoln

## UUFLIX NEWS

We know, we know, NetFlix has every film ever made and charges almost nothing for them, cable TV offers films every night, and the Fairhope Library's films are free. What's more, you can watch only so many films a week. Sure. But last we looked, neither NetFlix nor cable TV were turning over even a tiny part of their profit to the FUF. What's more, TV commercials ruin the flow of a good film, and trips to the Library are not always convenient. Enter - UUFLix! Almost free - -only \$1.00 a week per film, a good and growing selection to choose from, and every \$1 goes directly to FUF.

FUF is one of only a small number of UU groups without an annual pledge drive. Our fundraising projects--such as UUFLix--and friends' and members' generosity make this possible.

For a list of films available, check the FUF website or get a PDF copy by emailing nolandxyz@earthlink.net.

Films always available Sunday during the coffee hour.

**FILM OF THE MONTH:** *Iron Jawed Angels* (drama) (2004) - Depicts the struggles of the early suffragette movement from 1912 to 1920; starring Hilary Swank as Alice Paul and Frances O'Connor as Lucy Burns.

—Submitted by *Juanie Noland*

## NON-FICTION TWICE A MONTH

The Non-fiction Book Group meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 9:30.

Bring a book you would like to share and give a ten minute report on it. Or just come and take part in the discussion of others' books. Or just come and listen. It's a favorite activity of those who participate. We invite you to give it a try--newcomers are always welcome!

—Submitted by *Diane Ehlers*

## ART EXHIBITION OPENING

Beginning on Saturday, May 9, the Fellowship is privileged to feature the work of two Mobile artists, Lynda Touart and Rita Skiadas.

Lynda is an instructor in painting and drawing at the University of South Alabama and Faulkner State. Previously, she worked as a medical illustrator for the USA College of Medicine. Her brilliant watercolor paintings and meticulous drawings have won numerous awards in the Southeast.

Rita Skiadas is a Professor of Photography who came to Mobile after her years of teaching at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Her photographs using alternative processes are as arresting as are her elegant black and white photographs.

Plan to attend the opening Saturday, May 9, from 3-5 PM at the Fellowship. The Unitarian String Quartet will be providing live music for the event.

—Submitted by *Pinky Bass*

## SENIOR MUSIC RECITAL

The Baldwin County Music Teachers Association will hold the Senior Class Recital at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship building at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 3. Admission is free, everyone is welcome.

—Submitted by *Ed Lawrence*

## AUTHORS DISCUSSION GROUP

The Authors Discussion Group meets the second Thursday of each month, at 9:30 in the Fellowship library. New people are encouraged to come and try it out. Read any book by the author to be discussed, or just come and listen.

Upcoming authors are:

**May 14:** M.C. Beaton (suggested by Jill Teumer)

**June 11:** Timothy Findley (Jean Lawrence)

—Submitted by *Diane Ehlers*

## **“JUST” A MOTHER? DEPENDS HOW YOU LOOK AT IT...**

A few months ago, when I was picking up the children at school, another mother I knew rushed up to me. She was fuming with indignation.

"Do you know what you and I are?" she demanded.

Before I could answer~and I didn't really have one handy~she blurted out the reason for her question. It seemed she had just returned from renewing her driver's license at the County Clerk's office. Asked by the woman recorder to state her "occupation," she had hesitated, uncertain how to classify herself.

"What I mean is," explained the recorder, "Do you have a job, or are you just a ....?"

"Of course I have a job." she snapped. "I'm a mother."

"We don't list 'mother' as an occupation...'housewife' covers it," the recorder replied emphatically.

I forgot all about her story until one day when I found myself in the same situation, this time at our own Town Hall. The Clerk was obviously a career woman. poised, efficient, and possessed of a high-sounding title, like "Official Interrogator" or "Town Registrar."

"And what is your occupation?" she probed.

What made me say it, I do not know. The words simply popped out. "I'm...a Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations."

The clerk paused, ball-point pen frozen in midair, and looked up as though she had not heard right. I repeated the title slowly, emphasizing the most significant words. Then I stared with wonder as my pompous pronouncement was written in bold, black ink on the official questionnaire.

"Might I ask," said the clerk with new interest, "just what you do in your field?" Coolly, without a trace of fluster in my voice, I heard myself reply, "I have a continuing program of research (what mother doesn't?) in the laboratory and in the field (normally I would have said indoors and out). I'm working for my Masters (the whole darned family) and already have four credits (all daughters).

Of course, the job is one of the most demanding in the humanities (any mother care to disagree?) and I often work 14 hours a day (24 is more like it). But the job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers and the rewards are in satisfaction rather than money."

There was an increasing note of respect in the clerk's voice as she completed the form, stood up, and personally ushered me to the door.

As I drove into our driveway buoyed up by my glamorous new career, I was greeted by my lab assistants, ages 13, 7, and 3. And upstairs, I could hear our new experimental model (six months) in the child-development program, testing out a new vocal pattern.

I felt triumphant. I had scored a beat on bureaucracy. And I had gone down on the official records as someone more distinguished and indispensable to mankind than "just another...."

Home...what a glorious career. Especially when there's a title on the door.

*~Author Unknown~*

# BIG THANK YOU

...to everyone who contributed to the success of the Fund Raising Committee's Spring Yard Sale and/or the Social Action Committee's maiden Bake Sale by baking, donating, buying, setting-up, taking down or otherwise helping on the day of the sales.

Thanks to everyone's efforts approximately \$1900 was raised for the Fellowship from the Yard Sale and \$430 was raised toward SAC's Faulker Nursing Scholarship. Truly terrific results!



—Submitted by Nancy Martin

## GAME NIGHT TWICE MONTHLY

Game Night is a great way to meet Fellowship members and friends — come join in the fun starting at 6:30 p.m.! We have a variety of board and card games, and new games are always welcome. New players are invited to learn a game or share one they know.

Game Night is held on the second and fourth Saturday nights of each month.

For information contact Ruth Geraci, 251-970-3407 or [uuruthg@gulftel.com](mailto:uuruthg@gulftel.com).

—Submitted by Ruth Geraci

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Fri., May 1:** Board Meeting 10am  
**Tue., May 5:** Knitters' Group 1-330pm  
**Tue., May 5:** Choir rehearsal 330pm  
**Wed., May 6:** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm  
**Thu., May 7:** Authors Discussion Group 930am  
**Sat., May 9:** Game Night 630-9pm  
**Tue., May 12:** Knitters' Group 1-330pm  
**Tue., May 12:** Choir rehearsal 330pm  
**Wed., May 13:** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm  
**Thu., May 14:** Non-fiction Book Group 930am  
**Tue., May 19:** Knitters' Group 1-330pm  
**Tue., May 19:** Choir rehearsal 330pm  
**Wed., May 20:** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm  
**Sat., May 23:** Game Night 630-9pm  
**Sun., May 24:** June newsletter deadline 5pm  
**Tue., May 26:** Knitters Group 1-330pm  
**Tue., May 26:** Choir rehearsal 330pm  
**Wed., May 27:** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm  
**Thu., May 28:** Non-fiction Book Group 930am  
**Sun., May 31:** Last Sunday Potluck 12pm

HAPPY  
**Mother's**  
 DAY

## NEWSLETTER

Submit calendar events or articles specific to the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship for publication one week prior to the last Sunday of each month **OR** as noted in the newsletter calendar section. 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 as space allows.

Provide written copy or email to editor at:

**[nanpie@juno.com](mailto:nanpie@juno.com)**

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