

June 2007



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Jun 3

JUANIE NOLAN, Ph.D.: “The Jeanes Teachers: A Story Too Little Told”

The Jeanes Teachers, also called Jeanes Supervisors, were a group of African American educators – mostly women– who worked in Southern rural schools and communities from 1908 until 1968. Their work was initially funded through a million dollar grant from Pennsylvania philanthropist Anna T. Jeanes. They were remarkable in many ways, particularly in their ability to do the “next needed thing.” Dr. Nolan retired as Professor of Education at Tuskegee University in 2004 and is a member of our Fellowship.

Introduction: Robin Fabel

Jun 10

**HARVEY JOANNING, Ph.D, & PATRICIA KEOUGHAN, Ph.D:
“Zits: Surviving the Teenage Years”**

The teenage years are a time of rapid change and confusion for teens and parents alike. To help lift the confusion, Drs. Keoughan and Joanning will explore why teens behave the way they do, how parents and other adults can relate to teens to improve interpersonal relationships, and common issues facing teens. The speakers will summarize recent research on teen brain development that sheds light on teen behavior. They will also make specific recommendations designed to minimize conflict and maximize communication between teens and adults. The role of drugs, alcohol, peers, sexuality and risk-taking behavior in teens’ lives will also be addressed.

Introduction: Emily Mueller

Jun 17

BERT BRUN: “UU Partnership Churches in the Philippines ”

Bert Brun has led a varied professional life, working as a travel counselor, teacher, oceanographer, and estuarine biologist. Today he provides a first-hand account of how the UUA Partnership Church Council works to bring about a better life in a poor village in a developing country.

Introduction: Bayne Snyder

Jun 24

**DOROTHY DOWELL: “My Experience of Life as an American Woman
in an Islamic Country”**

Fellowship member Dorothy Dowell accompanied her husband Stan when he went to Saudi Arabia to coach the Saudi Olympic track team. She will share her impressions based on two years’ experience immersed in Saudi culture.

Introduction: Stan Dowell

Everyone is invited to attend the Fourth Sunday potluck following the program. Please

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

Fellowship Films, Fun and Intellectual Exchange Opportunities in June

June Documentary Examines the Alabama Constitution

The Fellowship offers a variety of educational, thought-provoking, and controversial documentaries. This month's selection is

It's A Thick Book (2007, 49 min.)

This current film provides a unique, funny and powerful look at the 1901 Alabama Constitution. Candid interviews mixed with brilliant narration explain the complex issues about the Alabama Constitution, and why constitutional reform is so badly needed in Alabama.

The film starts at 7 pm, Saturday, June 2. Admission is free, but contributions will be accepted. Bring your friends!

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

Transcendentalism Discussion Group Concludes this Month

The Transcendentalism Discussion Group has been exploring the meaning of Transcendentalism by learning about a number of outstanding individuals of the nineteenth century who were active in this influential movement.

The discussion group, which meets each Sunday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in RE Room 2, will view educational footage regarding the following:

June 3 *Transcendental Women*

June 10 *Moncure Conway, Southern Transcendentalist*

All Fellowship Members and Friends are welcome to attend either or both of these discussions.

Entertainment Movie June 16

The Third Saturday Movie Night at the Fellowship will feature the film

Gregory's Girl

This is a sweet disarming comedy about teenagers in spring. (It might provide an interesting follow-up to the previous Sunday's program on teenage years!) *Gregory's Girl* won the British Best Screenplay Award.

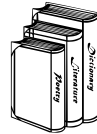
Come Play With Us!



Participants regularly enjoy poker, Scrabble® and bridge. New players and games are welcome!

Bring your own beverage, and a snack if you like. 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:

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.

Notes from May Fellowship Board Meetings

The May 4 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 Gail Gardner, Prad Mather and Kay Seymour.

Ruth Greenbury will receive official thanks from the Fellowship for her donation of the proceeds from her yard sale.

The Treasurer presented information regarding our new insurance policy with Safeco.

In conjunction with the discussion regarding our new insurance carrier, Michael Patrick pointed out that Article III, Section 4 of the by-laws defines Friends as "associate members with all rights except voting and holding office." That is, we have two categories for those who wish to commit to a formal relationship with FUF: Member and Friend/Associate Member.

The Board approved a motion to change out wooden panels on the two RE room doors and the office door, installing glass panels in each.

A new security keyboard has been purchased for the kitchen door. The keyboard will not be installed until after the June newsletter has been disseminated, alerting FUF Members and Friends to this change.

Jule Moon asked and received permission from the Board to use biodegradable products for our Fellowship.

The Board discussed replacing all incandescent and halogen bulbs in the Fellowship with fluorescent bulbs. This will be left to the Building Maintenance Committee for future consideration as current bulbs burn out.

On May 13, a special meeting of the Fellowship Board of Directors was called to consider two items of business. Present were Ed Lawrence, presiding, and Board members Wilma Albers, Stu Chapman, Diane Ehlers, Ruth Geraci, Jon Leff, Terry Lindquist, Jule Moon, Michael Patrick and Pam Perkins. Also present were Fellowship members Sterling Bingham, Brad and Diane Davis, Bud Gardner, Celeste Hinds, Prad Mather, Jeanine Normand, Janet Snyder, and Philip Strniste.

Philip Strniste gave a report on progress on the Memory Garden. A motion was made and carried to have the new garden be called "Living Memory Garden." The garden was established to honor Annabelle Snyder, and it will also provide an opportunity for Fellowship members to honor loved ones. A Living Garden subcommittee of the Grounds Committee was established, with Phil as its chair.

Ed announced that Doug and Shelly West had submitted a letter indicating their desire to discontinue their contract to provide Youth Fellowship services. Fellowship President Ruth Geraci will write a letter accepting the termination of contract. The Religious Education Committee will investigate how other UU churches are handling RE services, and make recommendations to the Board for the program's future.

NOTE: Kitchen Door Lock
Combination to Change this Month

In June, the old security keyboard outside the Fellowship's kitchen door will be replaced with a new keyboard. A new numerical code will be applied at that time.

The new code will be provided to Board members and committee chairs, who will share the code on an as-needed basis, keeping careful record of who receives this information.

FUF Committee Chairs as of June 2007

Contact the Committee Chair for information or to becoming involved with the Committee.

1. **Art Committee:** Jean Lawrence
2. **Building Maintenance Coordinator:** Stuart Chapman
3. **Building Usage Coordinator:** Edith Hinrichs
4. **Caring & Concerns Committee:** Joyce Burkhart
5. **Chalice Lighters:** Ruth Pratt
6. **Finance / Budget Committee:** Jonathan Leff
7. **Fund Raising Committee:** Celeste Hinds (*Acting Chair*); Pam Perkins (*yard sales*)
8. **Green Sanctuary Committee:** Debbie Jessup
9. **Historical Records:** Michael Patrick
10. **Hospitality Committee:** Jule Moon
11. **Light Bulb Committee:** George Hinds
12. **Lawn & Garden Committee:** Celeste Hinds
Memory Garden Subcommittee: Phil Strmiste
13. **Library:** Rodney Hoffman
14. **Membership Committee:** Helen Earl
15. **Memory / Honor Book:** Lisa Meyers
16. **Music Planning Committee:** Dee Leff
17. **Newsletter Committee:** Ruth Geraci
18. **Opening, Setting Up & Closing:** Frank Laraway
19. **Program Committee:** Wilma Albers
20. **Publications:** Kristina Lindquist
21. **Publicity:** Diane Ehlers
22. **Readings:** Debbie Jessup
23. **Religious Education Committee:** Bud Gardner
24. **Saturday Evening Activities:**
Documentary Movies: Ed Lawrence;
Entertainment Movies: Wilma Albers;
Game Night: Ruth Geraci
25. **Social Action Committee:** Ann Chapman
26. **Spiritual Concerns Committee:** (*Vacant*)
27. **Sunday Bulletin:** Ruth Geraci
28. **Web Master:** E. J. Campfield

Interested in our UU Mid South District?

For information about the Mid South District of UUA, check out the MSD Web site (<http://www25.uua.org/msd/>), which includes many resources with hot links such as the MSD library (reported to contain 160+ items: "books, booklets, videos, and more") for use by congregation members; click-and-contribute to the UU "freedom to marry fund;" photos from the MSD R.E. summit (held 27 Jan 2007); and from the MSD Annual Assembly.

The District offers a full calendar of events and programs and services to support congregations in their work of being transforming religious communities that reach out to all who seek the inclusive, inspiring faith of Unitarian Universalism."

2007 Fellowship Board

President: Ruth Geraci ruthdow@gulftel.com

Chairman of the Board: Ed Lawrence edfairhope@bellsouth.net

Vice President: Terry Lindquist TSLL@localnet.com

Vice President, Programs: Wilma Albers albersw@bellsouth.net

Treasurer: Jonathan Leff jondeel@peoplepc.com

Recording Secretary: Diane Ehlers dianefairhope@bellsouth.net

Corresponding Secretary: Pam Perkins pamperkins1@peoplepc.com

Past President: Michael Patrick Patrick_36532@lycos.com

Members-at-Large: E.J. Campfield ejcampfield@bellsouth.net; FUF Webmaster; Stuart Chapman, chapas@bellsouth.net, Building Maintenance Coordinator.

Interested in Becoming a Member or Friend of Our Fellowship? Here's How

Have you attended the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship Sunday morning gatherings several times and/or attended other Unitarian Universalist Fellowships in the past? Are you familiar with the Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and with the Mission Statement of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship? (Our brochure is available with both the Mission and the Principles, as well as our history and activities. You can find it in the literature rack in the lobby.) Perhaps you are now interested in becoming a Fellowship Member or Friend?

Ask to be introduced to any Fellowship Officer (see list above). They will answer your questions and guide you to the Membership Book. You will receive a Membership Form to fill out and return to the Membership Chair. You will be asked to sign the book, indicating whether you wish to join as a Member or Friend.

Friends are "associate members with all rights except voting and holding office." That is, we have two categories for those who wish to commit to a more formal relationship with FUF: Member and Friend/Associate Member.

2007 Mid-South District Annual Assembly: a Life-Changing Experience

“Gratitude ~ Generosity,” the theme of the 2007 Mid-South District (MSD) Annual Assembly, held Friday through Sunday, May 4-6, at the UU Fellowship of Montgomery, AL, hit a home run. I learned just how generous we are as a district and as a national/ international organization. In addition, the dynamic keynote speaker, Rev. Terry Sweetser from the UUA, shared concrete strategy on 1) how to grow our congregations and 2) how to keep our congregations thriving financially.

In spite of the theme sounding corny, as a member of the social action committee, I was happy that the conference was quite devoted to social justice / social action. From the range of breakout sessions, Anita and I chose different ones. Besides reporting to my committee, I have handouts and information to share, so contact me if you’re interested. Examples: “Heroes of the Spirit: Genocide Then, Genocide Now,” led by Rev. Joan Armstrong; “Amazing Generosity Races Us All,” led by Rhonda Thomson from the Southern Poverty Law Center; sister congregation programs with developing countries.

Concurrent with these sessions was an all-day workshop on empowering the “youth ministry,” that is, the younger members. The concluding recommendation for our youth: more leadership conferences that include both youth and adults.

A major highlight for us at the MSD was a private guided tour, after hours, at the Civil Rights Memorial and Center, an interactive, educational museum. We spent about two hours there – not enough. Outside along the garden, the Memorial Wall, designed by Maya Lin (who also designed the Viet Nam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.), is exceptional on its own. The inside part is astounding, too. In spite of the serious subject and the security measures needed for such a museum, it is very upbeat, giving options for how to create change for the better of society and keep up the momentum. Its purpose

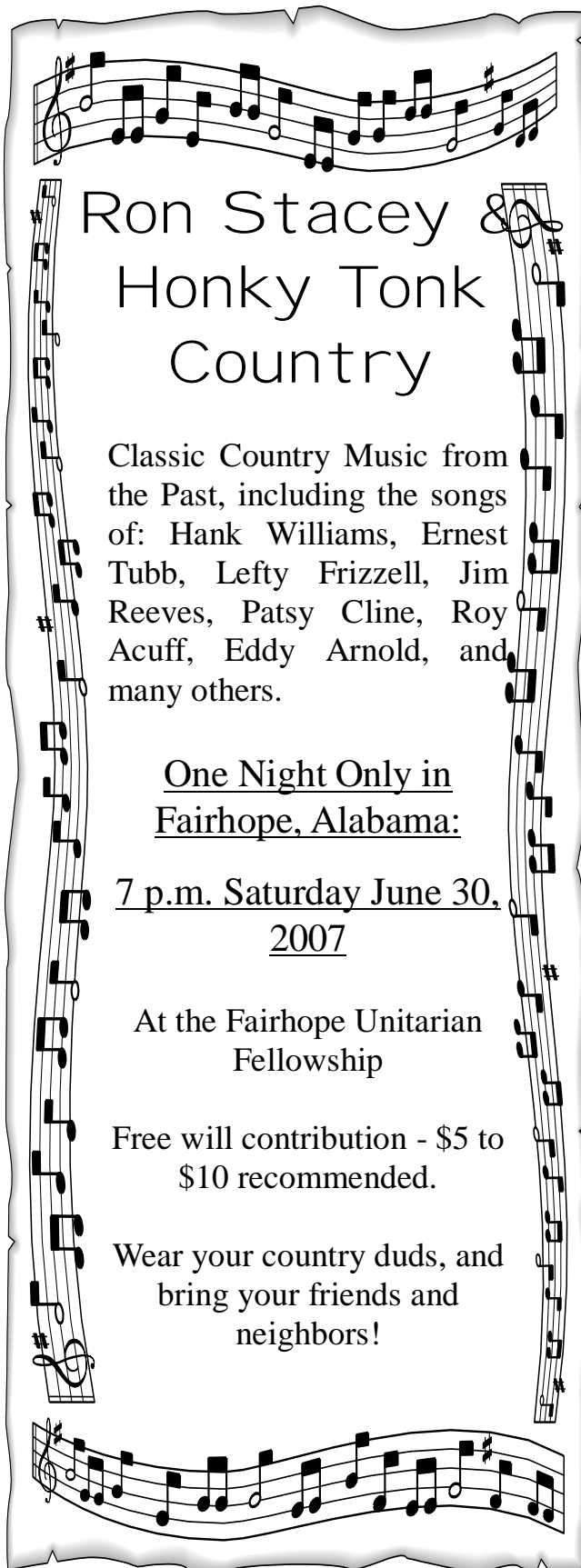
It’s a free, non-profit center, and your donations are tax deductible. Our name, “Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship,” dances on the inside “Wall of Tolerance,” and you can add your name, too, when you go. It was at the end of an extraordinary day, topped off with our visit to this center, with exceptionally informative and gifted guides from the center, when I realized the life-changing nature of this conference for me.

The conference was artfully and genuinely infused with UU-style spirituality in such a way that the even most passionate atheist or humanist was comfortable. One of the sessions, “Gratitude and Generosity Are Good for the Soul,” by Arlen Goff, was described this way: *“Every conference in the MSD should include a session where the spirit is renewed and the soul is refreshed.”* While we did not attend that session, we felt exceptionally renewed and refreshed anyway.

This conference was packed with engaged UUs and top-notch presenters! We met so many remarkable people with whom we share a majority of common views and goals. I did not expect that. That was among the first of the pleasant surprises. While some UUs are more socially oriented, and some are more social-action oriented, all that we met were warm, welcoming, and friendly. Even the business meeting was interesting.

The next MSD Annual Assembly will take place next spring in Valparaiso, Florida, near Pensacola, FL., (approximately a two-hour drive from here). Make your plans now – don’t miss it.

Surprisingly, a positive, life-changing experience greeted me and Anita. We gained “education and edification” about our roles as UUs in the communities where we live and in the world at large. Better equipped and ready more than ever to make a positive difference from the local to the international levels, I feel



**Ron Stacey &
Honky Tonk
Country**

Classic Country Music from the Past, including the songs of: Hank Williams, Ernest Tubb, Lefty Frizzell, Jim Reeves, Patsy Cline, Roy Acuff, Eddy Arnold, and many others.

One Night Only in
Fairhope, Alabama:

7 p.m. Saturday June 30,
2007

At the Fairhope Unitarian
Fellowship

Free will contribution - \$5 to
\$10 recommended.

Wear your country duds, and
bring your friends and
neighbors!

Mark Your June Calendar

Sat., Jun 2: Documentary movie, "*It's a Thick Book.*" 7 p.m.

Sun., Jun 3: Transcendentalism Discussion Group, *Transcendental Women.* 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Thur., Jun 7: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.

Sat., Jun 9: Fellowship Game Night, 6:30-9 p.m.

Sun., Jun 10: Transcendentalism Discussion: *Moncure Conway,* 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Thur., Jun 14: Flag Day

Thur., Jun 14: Author Discussion Group, 9:30 a.m.

Thur., Jun 14: FUF Support Group, 7-8:30 p.m.

Sat., Jun 16: Movie, *Gregory's Girl,* 7 p.m.

Sun., Jun 17: Father's Day

Thur., Jun 21: First Day of Summer

Thur., Jun 21: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.

Sat., Jun 23: Fellowship Game Night, 6:30-9 p.m.

Sat., Jun 30: Fifth Saturday Concert Series,

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