



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

JEAN LAWRENCE: "The Story of Stuff"

- Jun. 1** *A 20 minute movie about the production, sale, use and disposal of the stuff in our lives and how it affects our communities and our environment. Jean will moderate the discussion afterwards.*
Introduction: Ed Lawrence

DR. MARTHA DAUGHDRILL: "The Future of Food: More Questions

- Jun. 8** **Than Answers?"**
Building upon an anthropological perspective with the assistance of her daughter, Grace Benton, who recently completed a semester study of Food and Culture, Martha, a professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Faulkner State University will establish how the food we eat and the ways we get it define and influence our culture. By engaging the audience with more questions than answers, Martha and Grace will explore how our current foodways affect what and how we may eat in the future.
Introduction: Harvey Joanning

WANDA JOHNSON: "Carrying on Oral Tradition: Fashioning Character, Cultural and Family Tales"

- Jun. 15** *A gifted storyteller and motivational speaker, Wanda's presentation is part of the 2007-2008 Alabama Humanities Foundation Road Scholars' (AHF) speaker program. The AHF brings scholars and public together to explore human values and meaning through the study of history, literature, religion, philosophy, and other humanities disciplines.*
Introduction: Bert Brun

DR. ROMA HANKS: "Intergenerational Relationships in Families and Communities"

- Jun. 22** *Dr. Hanks' research includes case studies of family/organization linkage. She has experience with design, execution and analysis of qualitative and quantitative research on work and family, grandparenting, caregiving, retirement, decision making and applied ethics. Her current research focuses on intergenerational relationships and program evaluation.*
Introduction: Pat Keoughan

JIM HARMON: "Life on The Ranch"

- Jun. 29** *The Alabama Sheriffs' Youth Ranches program was founded in 1966 to provide stable, caring, Christian homes for our state's abandoned, abused and neglected children ages 6 to 18, not to be reform schools or correctional institutions. The goal is to help each child grow spiritually, physically and emotionally in order to become productive, responsible, successful adults. For the last 16 of his 24 years working with at-risk youth, Jim has served as the Director of Ranch Life at the Boy's Ranch in nearby Sumnerdale.*
Introduction: Nancy Martin

Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the June 29 program. Please bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship and conversation.

MAY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Fellowship Board of Directors met May 2. Minutes for this and all other board meetings are maintained in a binder in the library and are available for all Fellowship members to review.



COME JOIN US!

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

1150 Fairhope Avenue
Fairhope, AL 36532
251-929-3207

Sunday Service 11am

Adult discussion group meets
Sunday at 10am

www.fairhopeuu.org

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship Officers for 2008

President: Ruth Geraci
Chairman of the Board: Ed Lawrence
Vice President: Terry Lindquist
Vice President for Programs:
Elaine Snyder-Conn
Recording Secretary: Bert Brun
Corresponding Secretary: Pam Perkins
Treasurer: Kay Seymour
Board Members at-Large: Joyce Burkhart,
Stuart Chapman, and Robin Fabel

REDUCE DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAG USAGE

For those who wish to reduce the large amount of plastic going into the landfill while decreasing the demand and need for oil (plastic comes from petro-chemicals), both Wal-Mart and Winn Dixie (at least) are offering nice multiuse fabric bags to be used in bagging groceries and other items at the check out counter, for the price of \$1. Bring your own bag, save our oil and landfills. – *Frank Laraway*

DOCUMENTARY MOVIE JUNE 21

Because of the Benefit for the Local Food Production Initiative on the first Saturday of June, (see separate article) the documentary movie this month will be on June 21, the third Saturday of the month.

The movie will be *Out of Balance: ExxonMobil's Impact on Climate Change*. This 2007 movie is 65 minutes long. It shows the influence that the largest company in the world has on governments, the media and citizens and what can be done about global warming.

While the Earth's climate is pushed further out of balance by increasing use of fossil fuels, ExxonMobil continues to assert undue influence around the world— making record profits while ignoring climate science for which there has been overwhelming consensus for over ten years. *Out of Balance* does not just critique ExxonMobil, it also offers challenging, large-scale ideas for the global social changes that must take place if there's any chance of having a livable planet for future generations.

Free admission, contributions accepted.

FROM THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

June 2008 Newsletter submission from the Social Action Committee: Faulkner State Community College has a new scholarship available to a deserving student – thanks to our Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship – that’s YOU! The amount is \$500 to be awarded a second-year non-traditional student (not a recent high school graduate) with need for assistance in order to complete the program ... often parents with multiple responsibilities.

Jean Graham, Director of Nursing, made a presentation to the Social Action Committee March meeting, a meeting attended also by three board members. Faulkner State has both a one-year LPN and a two-year RN program. A scholarship from us will provide a double service: to the community, much in need of nurses, and to those mature individuals (male & female) dedicated to this service. Choice of the specific recipient will be left to the discretion of the Nursing Department.

Discussing the direction of Social Action within our organization has brought committee members to the realization that our action can be effective and meaningful only with FUF member participation. Local projects – or those outreach efforts we can bring thought and time to here at home – can serve as the kind of feel-good catalyst we all enjoy. While SAC will continue to recommend to the Board projects that deserve financial assistance, our middle name is, after all, ACTION. Let us know your personal volunteer experience so we can share that information to others looking for a worthy opportunity.

Next month we’ll bring you our new Mission Statement to say all this succinctly.

Meantime, in light of our promise to report organizations providing service, here’s breaking news from Southern Poverty Law

to start in the fall in Kentucky against the Imperial Klans of America which has 16 chapters in 8 states. The DVD will be available to borrow, despite disturbing content, along with other movies that have been shown here in our Sat. evening movies. This is the story of a hate-group assault against an adolescent mistakenly thought to be foreign when he and his parents are U.S. citizens.

FROM THE GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

We’ve paid our application fee.
We’ve brainstormed for ideas.
Now the fun begins. But first ...
We need your help.

Earning Green Sanctuary certification requires us to complete 12 environmental projects over a period of 12 to 24 months. Possibilities involve food, music, local tours, books, discussion--all the things we love, which includes some labor.

You can help by:

- voting to proceed toward certification.
- indicating which of the many possible projects we should undertake.
- proposing any great ideas that may have been previously overlooked.

Questionnaires are being handed out Sunday, June 1. Please complete one and return it with your comments ASAP, and then...

“Laissez les verts temps rouler!”



UU MID-SOUTH DISTRICT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY SUMMARY

This year's theme of Living Unitarian Universalism took place Friday, May 2 through Sunday, May 4, 2008, at the UU Fellowship of the Emerald Coast and at Okaloosa-Walton College, in Valparaiso, Florida. The MSDAA delivered excellent workshops and networking opportunities.

The main sessions and the business meeting of the conference were on Saturday, the day that I attended on behalf of our Social Action Committee (any UU can attend these.) Of particular interest to those of us on the Social Justice / Social Action committees were sessions such as The Global Literacy Project: Weaving a UU Global Village Network, Gulf Coast Katrina, UUSC and Greener and Greener.

In the Gulf Coast Katrina session, there was an explanation of how and why the UUSC was formed, and what it is and what it does. Importantly, the UUSC partners with organizations doing similar work. In this session, we learned that the UUSC is partnered with Alabama Arise to help urge Congress to bring the Gulf Coast Housing Recovery Act (GCHRA) to a vote. The GCHRA, Senate Bill 1688 (S. 1668): Federal aid has been allocated for the Gulf Coast, and none of it has been administered yet due to a hold-up in the Finance Committee, of which Alabama Senator Shelby is the chair. Contact him in Washington, D.C., or in his Birmingham office (see below), and show your support for the GCHRA S. 1668: Tell him that as an American citizen, you are a constituent. Tell him to pass S. 1668 and send a strong signal to the people of the Gulf Coast. He must stand up for low-income families who, nearly three years later, are still struggling to rebuild their lives.

As this is a Congressional committee, any citizen, not just Alabama voters, can contact Senator Shelby urging that this money be distributed. Call U.S. Senator Richard Shelby in Birmingham, (205) 731-1384 or in Washington, D.C., (202) 224-5744. For more information on the UUSC and their work in the Katrina recovery efforts, see: www.UUSC.org.

There was also a new program on the MDS level for small fellowships with no full-time staff (such as ours) called Unlimited Potential or UP! This program features free consultations, and connections and events to enrich congregations and to promote growth.

Another track is the MSD Youth-Adult Council (MSD-YAC) or UU youth ministry. It's inspiring to see so many young people involved in the UU, serving as officers in the MSD-YAC, or simply participating in the activities and events, accomplishing astonishing things.

The business meeting included reports from each chair about MSD progress over the past year. If interested, see me for copies of my notes on these.

Check out the Web site for the MSD at www.msduua.org, which includes contacts for the people and the committees, including the youth ministry, answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs), and a calendar of events.

MSDA was upbeat, informative, action-oriented, and engaging, facilitating an invaluable connection and network to other UUs that remind me why I am here. Maybe not quite the answer to the meaning of life, but how better to live it, and definitely to the question of why I am a UU.

- Submitted by Jeanine Normand

Sustainability Forum

Local Food Production Initiative Started in Fairhope

The increasing cost of oil and of food is causing serious financial problems for people everywhere. In order to reduce the cost of food for families in the Fairhope area, and in order to secure healthy chemical-free food, an effort has been launched to promote local food production in Baldwin County.

The first general public meeting of the Local Food Production Initiative will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 9 in the first floor auditorium of the Fairhope Public Library. Everyone interested is invited to attend.

Among the issues that the Local Food Production Initiative will look into are the following:

1. Establishing a community garden in Fairhope;
2. Expanding and promoting the Fairhope Farmers Market;
3. Encouraging preservation of agricultural land by conservation easements or other incentives;
4. Public education on the benefits of and opportunities for obtaining locally produced food.

(See article about the June 7 fund-raiser dance to benefit the Local Food Production Initiative)

For additional information contact Elaine Snyder-Conn at 990-4751, or Gary Gover at 990-8662 or govers@bellsouth.net.

A Request from Your New Newsletter Editor

As Ruth has mentioned previously, I have gradually been taking over compiling the Fellowship newsletter each month. I'm pleased to be able to take that responsibility off her shoulders and appreciate her endless patience while I learn the ropes.

My request is for anyone sending an email containing information for submission to please provide some details in the subject line. Example— July newsletter Garage Sale or July newsletter Volunteer Opportunities. When titled in this manner I don't have to sort through numerous emails all with a subject line of Newsletter looking for specific information. If your submission is lengthy, sending it attached as a Word document is also helpful.

Thank you for your assistance during this transition.

– Nancy Martin

TWO ROOMS AVAILABLE

The two classrooms in our Fellowship building are now straightened up and ready for use by anyone wishing to start a discussion or film group. The spirituality group has ended, but perhaps other people wishing to discuss the topic might want to meet on Sunday mornings (suggested time 10 a.m.), or perhaps engage in such topics as the separation of church and state or dealing with loss. Anyone is welcome to begin a group, first making certain that the room is available. A group could be very informal or could be in the form of a class.

It is up to us, as members and friends, to make the Fellowship what we want it to be. If you see a need for another group or class, make your desire known, and invite others to join you on Sunday mornings. Check with Ruth or Ed to make sure the space is available.

Some of us have talked about starting a group loosely titled The Meaning of Life. If you're interested, talk with Jean Lawrence. We hope to start this group at 10 am June 15.

BENEFIT DANCE WITH "DR JAZZ"

Sentimental Journey, a jazz listening and big band dance event sponsored by Citizens for Responsible Government will be held at the Fellowship on Saturday, June 7. The event will be a benefit to raise funds for the newly formed Local Food Production Initiative now getting started in Fairhope.

Music will be by the Dr. Jazz Normand Dance Orchestra with vocalist Lauren Jackson.

The big-band dance will be dressy or sporty-casual. Dancing practice & tips 6:30 to 7 p.m., the music & dance is 7 to 10:30 p.m. The requested contribution is \$10 per person, \$15 for two people. Hors d'oeuvres (no alcohol).

The Local Food Production Initiative is looking into several projects, including establishing a community garden in Fairhope, encouraging public & private efforts to preserve agricultural land in Baldwin County, working with other groups to promote public education on the advantages of and opportunities for local food production, and perhaps expanding the Fairhope Farmers Market. (See the separate article about the Local Food Production Initiative initial public meeting 6:30 p.m. Monday June 9 at the Fairhope Public Library.)

For information about the music & dance, contact Jeanine Dr. Jazz Normand at 251-928-2284. For information about Local Food Production Initiative, contact Elaine Snyder-Conn at 251-990-4751.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tue., Jun 3: Knitters' Group, 1-3pm

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

Thu., Jun 5: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30am

Sat., Jun 7: Dance, 7pm-10:30pm

Tue., Jun 10: Knitters' Group, 1-3pm

Wed., Jun 11: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30pm

Thu., Jun 12: Authors Discussion Group, 9:30am

Sat., Jun 14: Game Night, 6:30-9pm

Tue., Jun 17: Knitters' Group, 1-3pm

Wed., Jun 18: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30pm

Thu., Jun 19: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30am

Fri., Jun 20: FUF Board Meeting, 9:30am

Sat., Jun 21: Documentary Movie Out of Balance: ExxonMobil's Impact on Climate Change 7pm

Tue., Jun 24: Knitters' Group, 1-3pm

Wed., Jun 25: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30pm

Sat., Jun 28: Game Night 6:30-9pm

Sun., Jun 29: Last Sunday Potluck 12 noon

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:

nanpie@juno.com

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