

June 2009



# Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

## **June 7 SONYA BENNETT: “The Bahai Faith, “Treading the Mystical Path with Practical Feet”**

Although there are not many Bahais in Fairhope, our community does have an historic link to the Bahai Faith: Paul K. Dealy came here in 1898 as the first Bahai to settle in the South. Sonya Bennett, a Fairhope resident active in the Bahai Faith, will share the basic principles of the Bahai Faith and also speak about the mystical aspects of this World Religion.

Introduction: Jean Lawrence

## **June 14 JANE FINGER: “Complete Streets: Making Getting Around Safer, Healthier & Cheaper for Everyone”**

Complete streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities must be able to safely move along and across a complete street. Jane Finger, a member of our Fellowship, is working with the Smart Coast organization to promote the complete streets concept in the Eastern Shore.

Introduction: Charlene Lee

## **June 21 ADAM SNYDER: “The Impact of Citizen Conservation Lobbyists”**

Mr. Snyder is the Executive Director of Conservation Alabama, a non-profit organization working to make sound environmental policy a political reality in Alabama. He will talk about the legislative session and what those interested in conservation can do at the local level to build a stronger conservation in the Alabama legislature, and in local governments.

Introduction: Pat Smith

## **June 28 BERT BRUN: “Reflections on the Great Depression”**

How were average families affected by the Great Depression of the 1930's? What can we learn from those who lived through it as we approach what could be another severe economic downturn? These and other questions will be explored by Fellowship member Bert Brun, who has led a varied professional life, working as a travel counselor, teacher, oceanographer, and estuarine biologist.

Introduction: Charlie Earl

**Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the June 28th 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**

**fairhopeunitarian@att.net**

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

At its May meeting, your board:

- Approved last month's minutes and the Treasurer's report.
- Discussed the soon-to-be-available electronic newsletter.
- Discussed the possibility of ongoing adult education.
- Tabled the question of partially paving the parking lot.
- Heard of Wilma Alber's suggestion of auctioning Henry's art to benefit Habitat for Humanity.
- Discussed a proposal from WHIL to be a sponsor for the upcoming Bob Edwards visit.
- Discussed building usage, fees, and security deposits for upcoming non-FUF events.
- Were advised that transfer of the website responsibilities to Ruth is continuing.
- Discussed possible successors to the Treasurer's position for next year.

—Submitted by Pam Perkins

## SCRAPBOOK ITEMS SOUGHT

Considering we are fairly small in number, the FUF has gatherings of all sorts—game nights, dinners, potlucks, dances, concerts, etc. Do you have photos or news articles of these events? If so, Michael Patrick would like to have them to add to our FUF scrapbook. Please contact him with any questions.

—Submitted by Nancy Martin

## JUNE BOARD MEETING

The monthly FUF Board meeting will be Friday, June 5th 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, plans for an art auction fund raiser, and whatever else is submitted prior to June 5th.

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

—Submitted by Michael Patrick

## Summary Financial Statement

April, 2009

|  | Apr          | Actual<br>YTD | Budgeted<br>YTD | + / (-)        |
|--|--------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Support and Revenue</b>               |              |               |                 |                |
| Contributions                            | 4,004        | 14,386        | 14,000          | 386            |
| Other Revenue                            | 2,054        | 3,787         | 1,000           | 2,787          |
| <b>Total Support and Revenue</b>         | <b>6,058</b> | <b>18,174</b> | <b>15,000</b>   | <b>3,174</b>   |
| <b>Expenses</b>                          |              |               |                 |                |
| Building                                 | 2,528        | 7,905         | 10,157          | (2,252)        |
| Committees                               | 1,168        | 3,676         | 3,910           | (234)          |
| Donations                                | 0            | 450           | 933             | (483)          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                    | <b>3,695</b> | <b>12,031</b> | <b>15,000</b>   | <b>(2,969)</b> |
| <b>Net Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b> | <b>2,363</b> | <b>6,142</b>  | <b>0</b>        | <b>6,142</b>   |

—Submitted by Kay Seymour

## GREEN ACTION WORKSHOP

Please put Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for an exciting, productive workshop sponsored by the Green Action Committee. Starting at 10:00 a.m., to conclude at about noon, the workshop will break out into two sections to be selected by those who attend:

**\*Your Carbon Footprint**, led by Elaine Snyder Conn. This workshop will explore various websites and other aids toward measuring the participants' carbon imprint, basically their use of natural resources of all kinds. There will be opportunities to evaluate and compare.

**\*A Home Energy Audit**, led by Debbie Jessup. In this workshop, participants will compare and evaluate computerized energy audits performed on the computer beforehand (see below). We also will suggest local sources for live household audits.

The two sections will break out to hear a talk by our keynote speaker, Nick Coulson, who is a certified LEEDS green builder. Nick is an architect who specializes in remodeling older homes. The acronym stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Those certified must attend classes and pass a rigorous exam. We're sure Nick will have good suggestions for us to use in tightening up our own homes. Needless to say, he'll answer as many questions as possible.

Those planning to participate in the Home Energy Audit workshop are asked to conduct a computerized home audit ahead of time and bring the print-out with them. The purpose of the meeting will be to compare results, pinpoint common, valid suggestions, and evaluate the over-all effectiveness of the audit. The easiest way to find the audit is through Riviera Utilities' Website. Simply bring up [www.rivierautilites.com](http://www.rivierautilites.com) and select "Energy Depot," where you'll find an easy roadmap through the audit. If you have any questions on the workshop, please contact Debbie Jessup at 626-5720.

—Submitted by Debbie Jessup

## SAC WORKING GUIDELINES: CHOOSING CHARITIES

The Social Action Committee guidelines so far are very rough; a work in progress. We shall study charities, organizations, and causes that are brought to our attention by members, by the Board, and that we committee members ourselves know. Our SAC mission asks us to direct our attention to the local and state issues, and then to those which, after meeting our criteria, need help and money the most. In other words, as the list of needy organizations with good causes is long, if a worthy organization is already receiving large contributions, we may bypass it in order to adopt one where we have more bang for the buck, all the better to have a positive influence in our community.

We consider four broad categories: A. the Seven UU Principles (How it complies with our Seven UU Principles); B. Efficiency (How much money goes to its actual purpose and to programs); C. Effectiveness (How likely it is to achieve some of its stated goals and when); and D. Focus and scope.

Of course, we look at the focus of the organization to make sure that it is also within our UU principles, such as: environmental, health care, labor, charity, justice, and so on. We shall list if its scope is local, state, or national - some will be all three.

Most of the info can be determined from studying annual statements, tax records, interviews with executive directors, the Better Business Bureau, and people they have served. There are also various online tools that rate charities (although there are none that do local-only charities as of yet.)

Obviously, our SAC is only in a position to recommend where our Fellowship dollars be donated. The FUF Board has the final say.

—Submitted by Jeanine Normand

**"Difference of opinion is advantageous in religion. . ."**

—Thomas Jefferson

## Wedding Announcement

Bert Brun and Ann Franklin were recently married by E.J. Campfield. The non-denominational ceremony took place in a small chapel on Dauphin Island and the ensuing reception was held in a nearby beachhouse rented by two of Bert's visiting daughters. Friends and family numbered about 30. The couple is living in a rural setting 10 miles east of Robertsdale.

—Submitted by Bert Brun

## Authors Discussion Group

The Authors Discussion Group, which meets the second Thursday of each month, has selected authors for the coming three months:

June 11: Louise Erdich (led by Jean Lawrence)

July 9: Louisa May Alcott (led by Ruth Geraci)

August 13: Ann Tyler (led by Joanne Rains)

The group welcomes new members to its discussion, which starts at 9:30 a.m.

—Submitted by Diane Ehlers

## 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

## 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

**Tue., Jun. 2:** Knitters' Group 1-330pm

**Wed., Jun 3:** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm

**Thu., Jun. 4:** Non-Fiction Book Group 930am

**Fri., Jun. 5:** Board Meeting 10am

**Sat., Jun. 6:** Green Action Workshops 10am

**Tue., Jun. 9:** Knitters' Group 1-330pm

**Wed., Jun. 10:** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm

**Thu., Jun. 11:** Authors Discussion Group 930am

**Sat., Jun. 13:** Game Night 630-930pm

**Tue., Jun. 16:** Knitters' Group 1-330pm

**Wed., Jun. 17:** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm

**Thu., Jun. 18:** Non-fiction Book Group 930am

**Sun., Jun. 21** July newsletter deadline 5pm

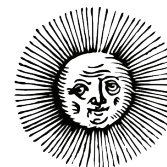
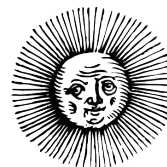
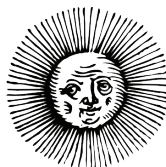
**Tue., Jun. 23 :** Knitters Group 1-330pm

**Wed., Jun. 24:** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm

**Sat., Jun. 27:** Game Night 630-930pm

**Sun., Jun. 28:** Last Sunday Potluck 12pm

**Tue., Jun. 30:** Knitters' Group 1-330pm



## UUFLIX PLANS EXPANSION

Due to its success to date, UUflix plans to expand by offering books on CD in addition to the wide variety of movies and documentaries currently offered.

If you have any books on CD (not on tape) you would like to donate to UUflix, please see Juanie Noland in the lobby after Sunday Service.

—Submitted by Nancy Martin

## 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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