

July 2007



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Jul 1 **ROBIN FABEL, Ph.D.:** “C hanging Perspectives on Thom as Jefferson”
Auburn University Professor Emeritus Dr. Robin Fabel taught classes on 18th Century America, developing a particular interest in Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson has been both glorified as a philosopher of democracy and denounced as a godless hypocrite. Dr. Fabel will discuss reasons that esteem for Jefferson has varied so much at different times in our history.

Introduction: Bert Brun

Jul 8 **BUD GARDNER, Ph D .:** “T he G reatest C entury”
Fellowship member and professor Bud Gardner takes a look back at the changes between 1900 and 2000. That one incredible century brought more change than the previous 10,000 years. As we enter the 21st century, we are moving faster and faster. So, where are we going?

Introduction: Joanne Rains

Jul 15 **JOANIE STEPHEN:** “S m art W ork E thics”
*Smart work ethics: What are they? Where do you get them? Why are they important? What happens when your workforce doesn't have them? How do you help your workforce get them? A certified master facilitator in workforce development and temperament style training, Joanie Stephen is owner of *The Smart Solutions Group*, which provides training to area businesses.*

Introduction: Gail Gardner

Jul 22 **JOHN JACKSON:** “P reparing for the C ounty B icen tenn ia l”
John Jackson will describe his efforts to prepare for Baldwin County's bicentennial slated for 2009. John is the department head for the County's Department of Archives and History. Along with supervising the daily activities of the archives, he is active in promoting the soon-to-be-released archival newsletter.

Introduction: Wilma Albers

Everyone is invited to attend the Fourth Sunday potluck following the program. Please bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship and good conversations.

Jul 29 **C E C I L C H R I S T E N B E R R Y :** “A V ision of F airhope”
Fairhope City Councilman Cecil Christenberry will describe his ideas for Fairhope.

Introduction: Harvey Joanning

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

Sustainability Forum Air Conditioning: a Southern Boon, an Environmental Disaster

We've all experienced freezing to death in restaurants, stores, our UU sanctuary and sometimes other people's homes. My personal and therefore biased opinion is that more energy is wasted on this southern luxury than on any other electrical abuse that comes to mind.

Short of creating unpleasantness, we cannot change the habits of restaurants and the like but we can take firm charge in our own homes. We at the Jessup abode keep our temperature set at 80 degrees or perhaps 78 when the humidity is at its highest. In order to increase comfort, we use fans that are installed in all our rooms. Air movement both pulls the hot stuff up to the ceiling but also and more obviously makes us feel cooler. However, when not in a room, we try to remember to turn the fan off. According to my readings, fans in an empty room consume more energy than they save.

Other keep-cool aspects of any home attempting to be green are double or triple glazed windows, insulating drapes (*a la* Frank and Pat Laraway) sufficient roof overhang, sufficient attic insulation, and the planting of foliage on the hot west side (in

plantings on the chilly east side help the heating bills).

By keeping the house warmer, we feel less impact from the hot weather outside, though this advantage has its limitations. We are aware that the relatively high air conditioning setting may prompt mildew, especially around vents and hard to reach ceiling moldings. We've had to tackle this problem more than once, I must admit. The only energy conscious solution I can see is to be aware of the humidity in your home and increase the air conditioning only when this gets too high.

SUSTAINABILITY FORUM is to be just what it says, a **forum**, in which everyone is invited to participate. Our intention is to be provocative, argumentative, contentious, but not insulting. Most of all, we hope the column s useful. The column w ill appear in the monthly newsletter as space allows, and is sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee. *- Debbie Jessup, Green Sanctuary Committee Chair*

Fellowship Book Groups Welcome Readers

The Author Discussion Group selects one author per month whose works are read and discussed on the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Office. Join us for stimulating conversations and share your opinions. New members are welcome, and discussion often continues over lunch at a local restaurant.

We will be choosing authors for future meetings, so please come with ideas. Currently scheduled authors:

July 12: Barbara Kingsolver

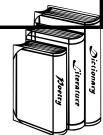
August 9: Virginia Woolf

- Diane Ehlers

The Nonfiction Book Review Group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Office.

Recent topics of discussion have included events of the late 1700s, the founding of the Shakers, **The Defining Moment** by Jonathan Alter, and **The Great Influenza**. Race relations, politics, religion, economics, psychology, history, ecology and evolution are all addressed at times through our reading.

Bring your favorite nonfiction and join in the lively discussions. New participants are always welcome.



July 7 Documentary Examines How Past and Present Administrations Have Sold Wars to the American Public

WAR MADE EASY: How Presidents & Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death.

Narrated by Sean Penn and produced by the filmmakers at the Media Education Foundation, *War Made Easy* is a powerful indictment of the current U.S. warfare state and a call to action.

The 73-minute film exhumes remarkable archival footage of official distortion and exaggeration from LBJ to George W. Bush, revealing in stunning detail how the American news media have uncritically disseminated the pro-war messages of one administration after another. It exposes a 50-year pattern of deception that has dragged the U.S. into one war after another. And the film zeroes in on the current historical moment - the techniques of propaganda that are preventing an end to a horrific war effort based on lies. The goal: Learn from history. Then change it.

The film starts at 7 pm, Saturday, July 7. 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.

- Ed Lawrence

Looking for Men Who Like to Sing

The Fellowship has a new Mens Chorus which meets each Tuesday from 3-4 p.m. The chorus is open to men with some singing experience—a tenor is especially needed. For more information contact:

George Hinds 928-6526
Harvey Joanning 929-0136

- Kay Seymour

Discussion Group Planned for August

Liven up your August by attending a three-week discussion group at FUF. Each Thursday night, August 2, 9, and 16, 7-8:30 p.m., a one-hour video will be shown followed by discussion facilitated by FUF member and professor Bud Gardner. The three videos are a series by Jonathan Miller titled "*A Rough History of Disbelief*."

Miller, a Cambridge graduate, first rose to prominence in the early sixties as a member of the British comedy group, Beyond the Fringe. The BBC says: "Jonathan Miller, who has been knighted, has carved out a career as a satirist, theatre and opera director, medical consultant, sculptor and writer."

His three one-hour videos, "A Rough History of Disbelief," cover the history of disbelief from the Classical Greek Era up to today. He provides a rational analysis of belief in God and the afterlife, and reviews where these beliefs have taken us. Jonathan Miller is entertaining, irreverent, and informative.

- Bud Gardner

Entertainment Movie July 21

The Third Saturday Movie Night will feature **Chariots of Fire** (PG 1981)

An award-winning film with outstanding performances tells the story of the 1924 Paris Olympics. The film starts at 7 p.m.

- Wilma Albers

Knitting, Anyone?

A knitting group is forming for beginners and experts alike. Join us and learn, or teach someone, or knit a hat for Afghan children.

Join Gail Gardner at the Fellowship Tuesday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. starting July 10. If you're experienced, you know what you need. For beginners, Gail can bring enough stuff to get you started. If you prefer to start with your own materials, contact Gail for info: 928-3041, or wgardner@bellsouth.net.

Social Action Committee Reports on Activities

At its April 15 meeting, the Social Action Committee (SAC) approved by majority vote the following Mission Statement as well as description of Goals and Objectives:

“The mission of the Social Action Committee of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship is to recognize and address worthy social issues that the committee members or the Board of Directors consider appropriate.”

GOAL: Effective implementation of planned projects.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Prioritize among possibilities, considering committee capacity and FUF resources;
2. Establish project goals and timetables for achieving goals;
3. Utilize or augment existing community structures already addressing specific issues when appropriate;
4. Encourage a widening circle of volunteers to maximize effectiveness;
5. Maintain commitment to achieve goals.

At its April 22 brainstorming session, a list of 24 ideas was elicited covering a range from local to international concerns. These ideas were then categorized, discussed at the May 7 meeting, and put to a vote on June 3.

There was a clear preference to continue both the local Meals, Music project (inasmuch as we have had some favorable reaction from the African-American community) and the Oaxaca (Mexico) project in whatever manner we can provide support, given there is not at this point an established fund. Third in order was a Heifer project, possibly in conjunction with a third world community partnering program.

Other local projects were subsumed under a Justice category— projects such as

mental health, literacy, and short-term emergencies. A project such as community sustainability may provide opportunity for SAC to work cooperatively with other FUF committees (such as the Green Sanctuary committee) and community organizations.

As a follow-up to Bill McBride's Oaxaca film shown several weeks ago, FUF members are reminded of the interest the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is showing in this example of “indigenous communities resisting militarization and defending their right to land and culture” by sponsoring a JustJourney to Chiapas August 2-11, 2007. Information and registration are available at www.uusc.org/justjourneys/chiapas.html or e-mail justjourneys@uusc.org.

UUSC will also have a fourth annual Civil Rights Journey to Atlanta, Selma, Montgomery and BIRMINGHAM July 7-14... an intergenerational bus trip to historic civil rights struggle sites. Consult www.uusc.org/justworks. And the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has adopted Peacemaking as a four-year action/study program.

Here in Alabama, The Southern Poverty Law Center is suggesting attention be given to the number of workers brought into the U.S. by employers (some 121,000 in 2005), workers who are exploited and abused, as part of consideration of immigration reform proposals.

Habitat for Humanity has started construction on its 60th home in Baldwin County and has various opportunities for volunteering in addition to construction. Anyone with questions can contact Ann Chapman at 929-0894 or chapas@bellsouth.net.

Lindquist Photography Exhibit Opens with Reception July 7 at Fellowship

An exhibit of photographic images by Fellowship member Terry Lindquist and daughter Kayla Lindquist will open with a reception in the Fellowship auditorium from 3-5 p.m. Saturday, July 7.

Terry Lindquist holds a B.F.A. from Rochester Institute of Technology, where he studied under two influential American photography masters, Minor White and Beaumont Newhall. He went on to earn his M.F.A. at Ohio University, and Ph.D. in Education at Walden University.

He has exhibited widely over the years, with one-person shows at Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Joe and Emily Lowe Art Museum, Canton Art Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, International Museum of Photography, Hunter Museum of Art, Miami Museum of Modern Art, Michael C. Rockefeller Art Gallery, Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute Art Gallery and others. He has had many photographs published in periodicals including **Life International**, **Fortune**, **Popular Photography**, **Time**, **International Living**, and more.

Dr. Lindquist taught at Ohio University for two years as a teaching assistant, and spent seven years teaching at the University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL. He went on to teach for over 33 years at the State University of New York in Fredonia, working with both undergraduates and graduate students.

Quoteworthy

In times of crisis, it is to art that one can turn to find the center of a society. Societies are not remembered by their battlements, but by their art. Art is an essential reminder of what it is in life that lasts, of why one lives. Art communicates, clarifies, celebrates, mourns and remembers. What else in our lives can do this? – *Bella Lewitzky*

For over ten years Kayla Lindquist has traveled the world, photographing the landscapes of New Zealand, the Twelve Apostles in Australia, children in Korea, and Sumo wrestlers in Japan. She has photographed the enchanting sunsets in Mustique and the Amazon, along with decidedly “local” moments in Bermuda.

Ms. Lindquist has photographed authors for Viking Press and magazines including **Town & Country**, **Departures**, and **Quest**. She currently resides in New York City.

Fellowship members, friends, guests, and the general public are invited to the July 7 reception to meet the Lindquists and view their work.

Music for the reception will be provided by Jeanine “Dr. Jazz” Norm and on the piano. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Joyce Burkhart.

Notes from and About our Members

Donation in Action– A Fellowship member suggests: Take a ride down Twin Beech Road to see the sidewalk to which the Fellowship contributed a small amount of money a couple of years ago. It is a much-needed safety feature for the residents of that area.

UUs featured – Fellowship members Stan and Anna Hodgin were featured in the June 24 **Press Register**, with pictures and an article in a feature section titled “Soil and Sea: Baldwin's got talent!” Stan is noted for his musical abilities; Anna is an artist.

Note: Kitchen door lock combination has changed! The new code has been provided to Board members and committee chairs, who will share the code on an as-needed basis.



Consider the Possibilities for Helping Others

As a follow-up to his talk to the Fellowship on June 17, "**UU Partnership Churches in the Philippines**" (see summary at FUF website, www.fairhopeuu.org) Bert Brun has outlined several possible options the Fellowship could be considering over the summer period.

(1) Become a partner with a Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines village church, such as the one in Nagbinlod, which Bert described. This would be coordinated with the Partnership Church Council, and the Boston-based Unitarian Universalist Association. The "dues" are minimal (\$50 per year) and the extent of the relationship is entirely dependent on mutual agreement between the two churches within the partnership (possibly a joint arrangement with another willing United States church could be considered). There are no stated financial contributions as such required from the better-off American partner. Typically, if a new project to improve the lives of the Philippine villagers comes into being, the US partner contributes some money for materials while the villagers construct and maintain the improvement, e.g., a water delivery system. Expertise by American individual Unitarians might also be involved. Other side benefits to both churches might include establishing "pen pal" corners with e-mailed photos in each location. (A Philippines trip like the one Bert took in 2004 is being organized by the Partnership Church Council for March 08).

(2) Association with the UUCP's Community Organization for People Empowerment (COPE.)

(3) Association with Buhata Pinay, an organization formed to promote activities designed to better the lives of Filipino women.

Both these organizations are non-governmental organizations ("NGOs").

Share your thoughts about these opportunities with Bert, bertbrun73@bellsouth.net, or telephone him at 251-214-3786.

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:

uuruthg@gulftel.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Ruth Geraci

DISTRIBUTION: Diane Ehlers and Ruth Allbritton

Mark Your July Calendar

Tue., Jul 3: FU F M en s C horus, 3-4 p.m.

Thur., Jul 5: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.

Sat., Jul 7: Art Reception, 3-5 p.m.

Sat., Jul 7: Documentary movie, "*War Made Easy.*" 7 p.m.

Tue., Jul 10: Knitting group and lessons, 1-3 p.m. (See article p. 2)

Tue., Jul 10: FU F M en s C horus, 3-4 p.m.

Wed., Jul 11: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.

Thur., Jul 12: Author Discussion Group, 9:30 a.m. *Reading Barbara Kingsolver.*

Sat., Jul 14: FUF Game Night, 6:30-9 p.m.

Tue., Jul 17: Knitting group, 1-3 p.m.

Tue., Jul 17: FU F M en s C horus, 3-4 p.m.

Wed., Jul 18: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.

Thur., Jul 19: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.

Sat., Jul 21: Movie, *Chariots of Fire*, 7 p.m.

Tue., Jul 24: Knitting group, 1-3 p.m.

Tue., Jul 24: FU F M en s C horus, 3-4 p.m.

Wed., Jul 25: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.

Sat., Jul 28: FUF Game Night, 6:30-9 p.m.