

**July 2008**



**Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship**

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

**Jul. 6 DR. HARRISON MILLER: "China's Recent Economic Growth"**

*Dr. Harry Miller, Assistant Professor of History at the University of South Alabama, will deliver a talk on 'China's Recent Economic Growth.' Dr. Miller will describe the economic policies inaugurated in the late 1970s by paramount leader Deng Xiaoping and will focus on the failure of economic liberalization to translate into political liberalization.*

Introduction: Michael Patrick

**Jul. 13 DR. BRENDA BEVERLY: "Tom ay to or Tom ah to: Defining and Embracing Dialectal Variation"**

*Dr. Beverly is an Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology at the University of South Alabama. She will discuss definitions of language and dialect from a psycho-socio-linguistic perspective, addressing myths regarding the nature of dialectal differences. She will review interesting examples of how dialect affects – not just the sounds we use (tomayto or tomahto) – but the words we choose, gestures we use, and ways in which we form sentences and structure conversations. Dr. Beverly will review current understanding of the roots of African American English, a prevalent dialect on the gulf coast and one that arouses controversy. A better understanding of dialects as language variations affecting all American English speakers results in cultural competence; that is, the ability to recognize, honor, and respect the beliefs, interaction styles and behaviors of people from culturally and linguistically different backgrounds.*

Introduction: Dorothy Dowell

**Jul. 20**

**DR. ERIC LOOMIS: "Mindfulness Meditation"**

*Dr. Loomis is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of South Alabama teaching Early Analytic Philosophy, Metaphysics, and Classical Indian Philosophy. He will introduce Shamatha or "Calm Abiding" meditation, and discuss some of the psychological and philosophical reasons for practicing it. Shamatha meditation originated in India and forms the basis for many meditation techniques. Although it was developed by Hindu and Buddhist practitioners, Shamatha does not require any particular religious beliefs and can be practiced by anyone.*

Introduction: Rodney Hoffman

**Jul. 27**

**BILL FINCH: "Why Alabama?"**

*Bill Finch, Director of Conservation for the Alabama Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and longtime garden writer for the Mobile Press-Register, asks you to rethink this long-forsaken place called Alabama, and what it means not only to you, but to the rest of North America. He offers insight into why Alabama has for the past several million years been the storehouse of eastern North American diversity, and how it could play a critical role as climate changes again. Lots of cool pictures, too.*

Introduction: Gwen Snyder

Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the July 27

## OBITUARY– RUTH PEROT

Ruth was a member of our Fellowship since 1994, but was also one of the early attendees of the Fellowship before joining the Mobile Fellowship for a number of years.

*From the Mobile Press-Register-*

Ruth Shields Perot, age 85, of Daphne, AL, passed away Friday, June 13th at the University of Tennessee hospital in Knoxville. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Jules J. Perot, daughter Melanie, and son, Stephen. She is survived by her son Larry (Connie) Perot of Prestonsburg, KY, two grandchildren, James Wyatt of Cherry Point, NC, Jessica Alane of Mobile, AL, and her caregiver and loving friend, Nancy "Sam" Brandt of Daphne, AL. She was a contributing writer for the Mobile Beacon, a published author, and avid painter. There will be no memorial service, respecting Mrs. Perot's wishes. Her body was donated to the University of Tennessee Forensic Anthropology Department of scientific research. She will be greatly missed by her many friends at Homestead Village of Fairhope, where she lived for 14 years. Anyone wishing to honor her memory may make a donation to the American Cancer



## FROM THE GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

The Green Sanctuary Committee reports 27 surveys were returned after the recent distribution to members to gauge the interest continuing to pursue Green Sanctuary status and the projects that will entail. Of the surveys returned, 20 are pro-continuation, 5 opposed and 5 having no opinion. The projects possibilities receiving the most responses were:

- Environmental movies (16)
- Monthly or at least frequent Green Committee columns in the newsletter (11)
- Environmental workshops (8)
- Purchasing and planting trees in members yards (11)
- Contributing and/or participating in a Habitat for Humanity project (12)
- Purchasing/designing "green" shopping bags (11)

More information and announcements to follow in July and August.

## 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](http://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: Robin Fabel,**  
**Joyce Burkhart, Stuart Chapman**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER—MARY VAN ANTWERP

Mary Van Antwerp might reasonably be called a Renaissance woman— a well-educated lady with cultural grace and an understanding of the arts and sciences. She’s an award-winning artist and photographer, a ceramicist, a lover of good music and literature, and a poet with a sense of humor— “O gden has a way w ith words, m ine always turn out curds.” Her photographs are in the collections of three American museums and one in Russia, as well as in private collections. Four books and a number of calendars feature her work. Two of her photographs traveled throughout the United States in a National Geographic photography exhibit several years ago.

Mary graduated from the University of Alabama with a double major, in journalism and in speech and drama. At a party in 1938 she met her future husband, Garet Van Antwerp, a handsome law school student from Mobile who, according to Mary, “loved everything I loved.” A fter their m arriage, the Navy transferred Garet to Mill Valley, California, where they lived during the 1940s. M ary’s husband passed aw ay several years ago . Their four children and three grandchildren all live in Alabama.

Mary has enjoyed several careers. From 1947 to 1952 she taught in the first public school for handicapped students in Mobile. In the mid 1960s she was Family Editor of the Brookley Field Air Force newspaper. In 1967 she completed a masters degree in rehabilitation counseling from the University of South Alabama then began work as a counselor at the Mobile Mental Health Center, from which she retired in 1981.

M ary’s A labam a roots run deep. M ary’s great grandfather, Dr. Willis Roberts, was the first m edical director of M obile’s oldest hospital. H is daughter, M ary’s grandm other, Laura Roberts Pillans, born in 1820, recorded in her diary fascinating observations of life in Mobile dur-

ing the C ivil W ar: “From m y w indow I see the Yankees pass constantly. A most hateful sight. There stands Willie Hamilton in amicable conversation with a squad of Yankees. Does none of the blood of his brave cousin tingle in his veins, or has it turned to w ater?” M ary’s presentations of the diary have delighted many audiences, including Fairhope Unitarians.

Several of M ary’s ancestors w ere U nitarians, though for most of her life Mary was a member of the Episcopal Church. She began attending the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship a few years ago, partly, she said, because a good friend and neighbor M ary Toum in “loved the Fellow ship and kept talking about it.”

M ary’s pho tographs and paintings are ex hibited often, most recently at the Eastern Shore Art Museum.

*– submitted by Juanie Noland*



### TOPIC: THE MEANING OF LIFE

This recently formed discussion group will take a break for the summer and begin again in September for those who sign-up. The group will meet on Sundays at 10am in the north classroom. Contact Jean Lawrence with any questions.

Contact Ed Lawrence or Ruth Geraci regarding using one of the classrooms for any other d iscussion group you’d like to initiate.

## FROM THE ART COMMITTEE

### *SUMMER ART SHOW TO PRESENT MEMBERS' WORK*

Fellowship members and friends are once again presenting their most recent artwork, completed within the last two years. A variety of mediums are represented. At the time of this writing, we do not yet know who will be participating. Both professional and non professional artists will have work in the exhibit. The show will be titled "Members and Friends: Recent Work," and will remain on view until early September.

As always, there will be an art reception to honor the artists. It will be held on Saturday, July 5th, from 3-5 pm. The Unitarian String Trio will provide the music, and there will be delicious and plentiful refreshments. We invite everyone to bring friends and family to the reception, which is also open to the public.

On Sunday, August 3, Pinky Bass will be giving a talk about the show entitled "Looking at Art... A Brief Survey of How Curators, Artists and the General Public View Works of Art". She will be discussing some of the exhibit's works, as she explains how each group judges art.

### *SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER EXHIBIT TO FEATURE WATERCOLORS BY ANN BROWN*

Ann Brown, the late wife of our member Doug Brown, painted lovely watercolors of landscapes, flowers, and other subjects. We're sure that you'll enjoy seeing these works, which Doug is so generously lending us. We'll have more information about the show later in the summer.

### *NOVEMBER-DECEMBER EXHIBIT: PROUD PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS*

The final show of 2008 will be put together by those of you who wish to show the art of your children or grandchildren. The work must be done by someone under the age of 18, and may be in any medium. No more than two pieces by any one child may be shown, and they must be ready to hang or to put on a pedestal. We know several of you have very talented children or grandchildren who are adults, but they aren't to be included in this children's art exhibit. Perhaps we may schedule such a show at a later date. Start thinking about the show now, and make sure you're well represented!

*-Submitted by Jean Lawrence*

### Non-Fiction Twice a Month

New participants are always welcome at the Non-Fiction Book Discussion, which meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month starting at 9:30 a.m. Bring your favorite work of non-fiction to share.



### Authors Discussion Group

The Authors Discussion Group, which meets the second Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Library/Office, has selected authors for the next two months:

July 10: Nevada Barr

August 14: Joshilyn Jackson

Both discussions will be led by Pam Perkins. The group welcomes new members to its discussion, which starts at 9:30 a.m.

*-Submitted by Diane Ehlers*

## NO JULY DOCUMENTARY MOVIE

Movies scheduled for the next three months are as follows. For additional information go to the Fellowship web site at [www.fairhopeuu.org](http://www.fairhopeuu.org) and click *Movie Events*.

Saturday, August 2: *Sicko* (2007, 123 mins.)

Michael Moore's latest film, *Sicko*, delves into the health care industry, showing what's wrong with this country, what's right with other countries, and that it's possible to change things for the better.

Saturday, September 6: *Enron - The Smartest Guys in the Room* (2005, 110 mins).

The inside story of one of history's greatest business scandals.

Saturday, October 4: *Subdivide and Conquer* (1999, 56 mins.)

This movie explores the consequences of sprawl, the history of this automobile-centered pattern of development, and notions about the endless frontier and rugged individualism. The film also suggests remedies, and takes us to places where sound public policy and good land use planning have stemmed the tide of sprawl. We learn that, when given a choice, many Americans want to live in distinct, well-designed neighborhoods, with all the amenities and attractions that they provide, and they want driving to be one among numerous transit options rather than a lifestyle requirement.

## GAME NIGHT

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 at the Fellowship.

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



## FROM THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

This Fellowship was very generous in contributions of food to Ecumenical Ministries last year. This year, as we all know, the need is greater. Your Social Action Committee voted to reestablish a Season of Fall Giving effective September 1, 2008, to last through the holiday season, until January 1, 2009. Ecumenical Ministries advises to focus on basic foods in need of little preparation - such as peanut butter & jelly, pasta and sauces, mac & cheese, though tastier holiday-type edibles would provide a special treat.

Some of our members have objected to high calorie, less-than-optimal nutritional meals... and it occurs to us, someone with good nutritional advice might like to compose a succinct, easy-to-read, informative health guidance tract - and maybe simple, nutritious recipes for EMI to give out with each food donation. This might be a first step toward education where-most-needed and a healthier community. LET US KNOW!

Social Action is gearing up to present more information about charities seeking donations. We'll be back to you. We're also looking for a way to help make the new Fairhope Food Initiative a resounding success in an age that needs: 1) less fuel use in transporting foods; 2) more safety in quality of fresh produce by growing & buying close to home; 3) improved health through healthy eating, available to the community at a fair price.

Let's work together. The more you do and the more we join in a joint venture, the more joy-in-giving will be returned to all of us, as individuals and as a warm and wonderful group.

--Submitted by Ann Chapman

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEES

**Contact the Committee Chair for more information or if you are interested in becoming involved with the Committee.**

**Volunteers are always welcome!**

**Art Committee:** Jean Lawrence  
**Building Maintenance Coordinator:** Stuart Chapman  
**Building Usage Manager:** Terry Lindquist  
**Caring & Concerns Committee:** Joyce Burkhart  
**Chalice Lighters:** Edith Hinrichs; (Jul-Aug-Thelma Topper)  
**Finance / Budget Committee:** Gail Gardner (Michael Patrick, Kay Seymour, Terry Lindquist)  
**Fund Raising Committee:** *vacant*; Pam Perkins (*yard sale subcommittee*)  
**Green Sanctuary Committee:** Debbie Jessup  
**Historical Records:** Michael Patrick  
**Hospitality Committee:** Jule Moon  
**Light Bulb Committee:** George Hinds  
**Lawn & Garden Committee:** *vacant* (Celeste Hinds is acting)  
**Library:** Pam Perkins  
**Membership Committee:** *vacant*  
**Memory / Honor Book:** Lisa Meyers  
**Music Planning Committee:** Dee Leff  
**Newsletter Committee:** Nancy Martin  
**Opening, Setting Up & Closing:** Frank Laraway  
**Program Committee:** Elaine Snyder-Conn  
**Publications:** Vivian Gooding  
**Publicity:** Diane Ehlers  
**Readings:** Debbie Jessup & Pam Perkins  
**Religious Education Committee:** *vacant*  
**Saturday Evening Activities:**  
     Documentary Movies: Ed Lawrence;  
     Game Night: Ruth Geraci  
**Social Action Committee:** *rotating chair*  
**Spiritual Concerns Committee:** *vacant*  
**Sunday Bulletin:** Ruth Geraci  
**Web Master:** E. J. Campfield

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Tue., Jul 1:** Knitters' Group, 1-3pm  
**Wed., Jul 2:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30pm  
**Thu., Jul 3:** Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30am  
**Tue., Jul 8:** Knitters' Group, 1-3pm  
**Wed., Jul 9:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30pm  
**Thu., Jul 10:** Authors Discussion Group, 9:30am  
**Sat., Jul 12:** Game Night 6:30-9pm  
**Tue., Jul 15:** Knitters' Group, 1-3pm  
**Wed., Jul 16:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30pm  
**Thu., Jul 17:** Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30am  
**Tue., Jul 22:** Knitters' Group, 1-3pm  
**Wed., Jul 23:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30pm  
**Sat., Jul 26:** Game Night 6:30-9pm  
**Sun., Jul 27:** Last Sunday Potluck 12pm



## UU FOOTBALL B & B

Forego a crowded motel and spend the weekend with a fellow UU family on Crimson Tide football home game weekends. We'll even take you in if you are rooting for the visiting team. Your \$100/night fee will be a donation to the UU congregation of Tuscaloosa. Please send an email with your contact information and requested dates to [deborah.crocker@ua.edu](mailto:deborah.crocker@ua.edu) with B&B in the subject line. We'll pair you with a host family.

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

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Nancy Martin

DISTRIBUTION: Diane Ehlers and Ruth Allbritton