

August 2007



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Aug 5 **DAN WILLIAMS: “The Homeless: A Local and National Issue”**  
*Dan Williams, representing the Mobile Coalition for the Homeless, will discuss homelessness in Mobile and Baldwin counties as an overview, and the status of homelessness in the United States. Dan will describe local and national strategies to abolish homelessness by 2012. He will also describe the Family Promise program known as the Interfaith Hospitality Network that is being organized in Baldwin County for homeless families.*

Introduction: Wilma Albers

Aug 12 **BRENDA LOWTHER: “Habitat for Humanity”**  
*Brenda Lowther is Volunteer Services Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity of Baldwin County. She is an enthusiastic person with success stories as well as opportunities to share. She will also bring information about becoming a recycling partner.*

Introduction: Ann Chapman

Aug 19 **A.J. COOPER: “God, Guts, Grits and Gumption”**  
*Cooper is a local practicing lawyer and former mayor of Prichard.*

Introduction: Katherine Thompson

Aug 26 **KONRAD KRESSLEY, Ph.D.: “Cathedrals of Tomorrow: Faith and Religion in the Future”**  
*Futurist, political science professor and author Konrad Kressley describes some of the diverse religious forces emerging in the 21st century. While potent forms of fundamentalism are growing in underdeveloped regions, information age culture is rapidly transforming the meaning of faith in our society. Finally, entirely new religious communities based on electronic technology and extra terrestrial contact are on their way. Professor Kressley's most recent book is *Living in the Third Millennium*.*

Introduction: Flo Schneider

**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.**

**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](http://www.fairhopeuu.org)**

Sustainability Forum Transportation Sacrifice and Technology
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*The following is a continuation of a longer essay Frank Laraway has written. The first section appeared in the April 2007 newsletter.*

More resources dedicated to a modern and efficient system of public transportation deserve our support. Where bike transportation is feasible, it should be encouraged by better biking facilities. However, we must assume that the car will be our main means of transportation for a while. We can reduce fuel consumption, but this requires changes in driving habits.

When buying a car, select one that not only fits your needs but is also the smallest, lightest and least fuel consumptive. Honda and Toyota small hybrids fit this profile right now. Larger, heavier hybrids will do little to reduce gas consumption. The new smaller, lighter, battery-powered electric cars will be even better for short runs. However, keep in mind that their electrical energy will come from fossil-fueled generating plants or internal fossil-fueled engines. The ideal electric car will be the one that produces its own battery charge from solar cells on the roof of the car, charging while the car is parked. House current may be utilized also.

To increase gas mileage, inflate car tires several pounds of pressure above conventional pressures. Accelerate and brake slowly, time the traffic lights ahead to keep wheels rolling, control your speed with the gas pedal, not the brakes, reduce stop and go driving, drive at modest speeds, avoid accelerating to pass and drive at only 55 mph on the highway. Plan errands and make as few trips as possible. We must also pressure the traffic engineers to invest in timed, coordinated traffic lights that reduce stop and go driving. This would not only reduce gas consumption but also reduce another serious component of air pollution like ozone.

Do not fall for ethanol as an alternative fuel for cars. Its production consumes more energy than it produces. Furthermore, it does not have the energy content that conventional gasoline has, so fuel economy will be even lower. Alcohol does burn cleaner at the engine, yet it creates a new set

of pollutants, and still produces global warming carbon dioxide. Present national ethanol policy is political, pandering to various agricultural interests whose desire is to sell more corn. This use will raise the price of that commodity in the food markets. Increasing the demand and price for corn creates a social problem, especially for those who depend upon corn as a cheap food source. Despite current trends, alcohol from any source is not the environmental answer. We must reduce the need to burn any type of fuel.

Natural gas and its engines are efficient and less polluting, but they have less energy content and still produce carbon dioxide. They are desirable now to reduce urban pollutants but in the long run they still use well head fossil products.

While hydrogen is the ideal fuel for the environment, producing few or no pollutants, it now requires more fossil fuel to produce. It also requires new expenditures for distribution infrastructure. Hydrogen fueled cars are very expensive. Hydrogen is difficult and costly to distribute so it's just not practical for the average driver any time soon. Solar electrical sources may produce it more efficiently eventually, but put hydrogen out of your mind for our generation!

Bio-diesel fuel technology is a good way to use otherwise wasted cooking oil, but the volume required to fuel cars is too great to meet demand. Cleaning the oil is another problem. Making fuel by growing crops just is not practical. The burning of any bio fuel also creates air pollution and carbon dioxide.

The best and fastest way to encourage new technologies is to put a substantial tax on present motor fuels and use at least part of this income for the development of new vehicle technologies and mass transit. There should be a tax on the car itself at the time of purchase to cover the cost of recycling it at the end of its life. Trains, rather than trucks, will have to come back as major means of transporting goods.

- Frank Laraway

*The Sustainability Forum is an opportunity for everyone to participate in environmental discussions. Contact Debbie Jessup if you have an idea to share.*

### Three-Week Video Series on Atheism in August

Liven up your August by attending a three-week video and 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

### Who is the Oldest?

We are trying to determine who is currently our elder statesman or stateswoman – the oldest member of our Fellowship. If you think you are the oldest, or if you think you know who is, please contact Fellowship president Ruth Geraci with that information. You may need to reveal your birth date, but that information will be kept confidential if you wish! Please provide information to Ruth at [uuruthg@gulftel.com](mailto:uuruthg@gulftel.com).

### Next Documentary Sept. 1

The next Saturday Night documentary at the Fellowship will be

#### **The Next Industrial Revolution (2002, 55 min.)**

Architect Bill McDonough proposes a hopeful and exciting future in which we reinvent technical enterprises to be as safe and renewing as natural processes. It is already happening; see some examples in this movie.

This documentary will be shown Saturday, September 1 at 7 p.m. No documentary will be shown in August.

### Discussion Group Selects Authors

The Author Discussion Group reads and discusses the works of one author on the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Office.

The group recently met to select authors for the next four months:

August: Virginia Woolfe

September: Sinclair Lewis

October: Edith Wharton

November: David McCullough

Join us for stimulating conversations and share your opinions. New members are welcome, and discussion often continues over lunch at a local restaurant.

– Diane Ehlers



### Entertainment Movie August

The Third Saturday Movie Night this month will feature

#### **City Slickers (PG13 1991)**

Three men with mid-life crises leave New York for a cattle ranch vacation. Billy Crystal and Jack Palance are among the laugh-producers. The film starts at 7 p.m.

**Lost & Found:** The Fellowship lost and found box is in the office. Find your missing glasses, umbrella, other items. Need help? Ask a Board member.

## Social Action Committee Suggests Charitable Donations

The Fellowship's Social Action Committee recently met to prioritize applicants for possible funding by the Fellowship. Priority preferences were rated on a ballot with the following results, which will be brought to the Fellowship Board for discussion:

1. Southern Poverty Law Center
2. The Lighthouse
3. Alabama Free Clinic
4. Habitat for Humanity
5. Fairhope Educational Enrichment
6. Alabama Arise
7. Aid to Inmate Mothers
8. Amnesty International
9. Project Hope
10. Oxfam
11. Interfaith Alliance
12. World Vision
13. Baldwin County Rescue
14. UU-UNO

### Free Clinic Serves Baldwin County

*FUF member Dr. Ralph Buckley provided the following information about the Alabama Free Clinic. (Dr. Buckley was a featured Sunday speaker some months ago.)* The Free Clinic, located in Bay Minette, is open every Thursday evening from 6-9 p.m., and serves 20 persons per evening. The clinic takes appointments; walk-ins can be seen when there is a cancellation or no-show, but staff are careful not to overload volunteers. A clinic volunteer screens income and insurance so that only those needing free services have access. A rough estimate of Baldwin County residents without medical insurance is 20,000, based on national statistics.

The Free Clinic's present needs are for:

1. Nurse volunteers
2. Physician volunteers - particularly recently retired doctors.
3. Volunteers to run the clinic
4. Funding for operating expenses such as

Included with this article are descriptions of two of these non-profit organizations. Fellowship members are encouraged to do their own research on organizations and indicate their thoughts regarding this year's donations from the Fellowship treasury. Contact any member of the Fellowship Board or the Social Action Committee. Ann Chapman is the chair of the committee; she may be reached at 929-0894 or chapas@bellsouth.net.

*The Social Action Committee meets regularly on the*

### Aid to Inmate Mothers Needs Support

In doing research about organizations requesting support, your Social Action Committee has come across these statistics from the Aid to Inmate Mothers (AIM), an organization in which FUF member Winn Faulk has been interested for a number of years:

- 1,900 women are incarcerated in AL;
- 70% are mothers and over 3,000 children in AL are separated from their mothers (as are a half million nationwide);
- Over 40% of inmate mothers have experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse;
- 80% reported income of less than \$2,000 annually before their arrest;
- The female inmate population in AL has grown by 58% since 1990; 23% return to prison because of the many barriers they face upon release;
- Children of imprisoned mothers are six times more likely than their peers to end up in jail.

AIM strives to provide emotional interaction between inmate mothers and their children, support these children through outreach programs, improve inmate mothers' parenting skills, minimize the likelihood of child abuse or neglect, help mothers make a successful

## Notes from FUF July Board Meeting

A short meeting was called to order Sunday, July 15 at 12:10 by Ed Lawrence, Chairman of the Board. Other Board members present were: Wilma Albers, Diane Ehlers, Ruth Geraci, Terry Lindquist, Jule Moon, and Pam Perkins. Also present were Bud Gardner, Religious Education Committee chair, and Kay Seymour (representing Treasurer Jon Leff).

Bud Gardner discussed the issue of selecting a new Youth Fellowship teacher. The Board agreed to put an article in the next Fellowship newsletter announcing the need, describing the position, and asking for candidates from the Fellowship.

The Board voted to have Terminix treat our building for Formosan termites as a preventive action, and to also treat the kitchen for ants.

The Board decided that a member of the Board should coordinate representation with Mid-South District. Ruth Geraci was elected to provide coordination.

Acting treasurer Kay Seymour discussed the problem of insuring the piano. It would cost \$800 per year, with \$1,000 deductible. The Board voted to self-insure.

The next meeting of the Board will be held August 10 at 9:30 a.m.

– *Diane Ehlers, Recording Secretary*

## Youth Fellowship Teacher Needed

Do you enjoy spending quality time with children? Would you be willing to share your UU commitment and understanding with the young people of our Fellowship on a weekly basis?

The Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship is in need of a teacher/leader for the Youth Fellowship Sunday morning sessions from 11 a.m.-noon. This is a paid position.

The Fellowship Board would ideally like to have a Member or Friend of the Fellowship step forward to take on this position as a part time employee of FUF.

The work entails planning and carrying out Unitarian Universalist youth curriculum, using UU guidelines and materials that will be provided by the Fellowship.

We currently have a small number of children participating in our Sunday youth program. We would like to see the program grow, so consistency as well as quality programming will be essential. Volunteers may be available to support the RE teacher as needed.

Interviews for applicants will be set up by the Religious Education Committee, who will also have oversight authority regarding the program. If you are interested in working with our youth, please contact any Board member.

## UUA Description of Religious Education

Unitarian Universalism welcomes children not only for who they will become in the future but for all that they offer right now. In Unitarian Universalist faith development programs (religious education), our goal is to help children make meaning of their experiences within the framework of our faith. Whether learning about our faith - roots and identity, world religions, life's experiences, questions and mysteries, or how we can live out our faith in the world, we hold children in communities of safety, love, and justice where they are valued just as they are.

We share with children soul-stirring stories, transcendent moments of care, ways to mark the sacred, and congregations that help us cherish

days. We want children to know the power of faith shared in community. We are all part of the interdependent web of life: a family sharing our home on this earth.

We help children find ways to make the values and principles of Unitarian Universalism part of the fabric of their beings. We work, play, worship, and learn with people of all ages in our congregations. Our children's questions invite our wonder; their trust encourages our hope. We return their questioning with affection and respect, and our congregations grow and deepen in faith and life-affirming inspiration.

*From the UUA Website "Religious Education"*

Our Fellowship Gallery to be Included in  
Fairhope's August 3 Artwalk

The Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship Gallery, currently featuring an exhibit of fine art photography by Terry and Kayla Lindquist, will be included in the **First Friday Artwalk** on August 3. Although most of the galleries included in the Artwalk are located in the heart of downtown Fairhope, several galleries are located east of downtown. This is the first time our Fellowship Gallery will be included in this popular city event.

The galleries are open from 6 to 8 p.m. with most serving snacks and beverages. Some of the galleries, including the Eastern Shore Art Center, have live music. A map and a listing of the participating galleries will be available at the Eastern Shore Art Center and other galleries in central Fairhope.

The exhibit of fine art photography currently on display at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship Gallery has received rave reviews as one of the best quality exhibits we have had. It will remain up only one more month, so take the time now to enjoy it. A full discussion of the work of Terry Lindquist and his daughter Kayla was included in the July Newsletter, accessible online at

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

Mark Your August Calendar

**Thur., Aug. 2:** Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.

**Thur., Aug. 2:** Video/Discussion Series Part 1, 7-8:30 p.m. (*See article page 3*)

**Fri., Aug. 3:** Fairhope First Friday Artwalk, including FUF Gallery, 6-8 p.m.

**Tue., Aug. 7:** Knitting group and lessons, 1-3 p.m. (*Contact Gail Gardner for details: wgardner@bellsouth.net.*)

**Tue., Aug. 7:** FUF Men's Chorus, 3-4 p.m.

**Wed., Aug. 8:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.

**Thur., Aug. 9:** Author Discussion Group, 9:30 a.m. *Discussing Virginia Woolfe.*

**Thur., Aug. 9:** Video/Discussion Series Part II, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Fri., Aug. 10:** Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

**Sat., Aug. 11:** FUF Game Night, 6:30-9 p.m.

**Tue., Aug. 14:** Knitting group, 1-3 p.m.

**Tue., Aug. 14:** FUF Men's Chorus, 3-4 p.m.

**Wed., Aug. 15:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.

**Thur., Aug. 16:** Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.

**Thur., Aug. 16:** Video/Discussion Series Part III, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Sat., Aug. 18:** Movie, *City Slickers*, 7 p.m.

**Tue., Aug. 21:** Knitting group, 1-3 p.m.

**Tue., Aug. 21:** FUF Men's Chorus, 3-4 p.m.

**Wed., Aug. 22:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.

**Sat., Aug. 25:** FUF Game Night, 6:30-9 p.m.

**Sun., Aug. 26:** Deadline to submit materials for September newsletter.

**Sat., Sept 1:** Documentary, *The Next Industrial Revolution*, 7 p.m.

**Sun., Sept. 2:** September newsletter available at Fellowship.