

September 2007



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

**FELLOWSHIP MEMBERS: “Our Own Immigrants”**

Sep. 2 *Members and Friends of the Fellowship will have the opportunity to share their memories of parents and grandparents who migrated to the United States. Their eventual naturalization and occupations may be included.*

Introduction: Wilma Albers

**JOHN McWILLIAMS & NANCY MARSHALL: “Coming from a Shared Place: Two Artists Working Together and Separately”**

Sep. 9 *This husband and wife team from South Carolina are the Fellowship’s exhibiting artists this month. They will describe their lives together as their work diverges and converges in a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.*

Introduction: Pinky Bass

**E.J. CAMPFIELD: “The Humanist Conundrum: What Humanism Means Today”**

Sep. 16 *Fellowship member and ordained secular minister E.J. Campfield will address a topic of interest to many of our members and friends.*

Introduction: Aaron Hinrichs

**RAFE VALUFRE: “The Vine and Olive Colony: Napoleonistas in Demopolis”**

Sep. 23 *In 1818 refugees escaping the Bourbon persecution in France were granted land near Demopolis in west central Alabama. The colony was not a successful one.*

Introduction: Pat Keoughan

**KEN SIZEMORE: “Tom Paxton: A Fabulous Folkie of the Sixties”**

Sep. 30 *Folk Singer Ken Sizemore returns to our Fellowship to discuss and perform the work of one of his favorite singer/songwriters. Songs include: The Marvelous Toy, Can’t Help But Wonder Where I’m Bound, The Last Thing on My Mind, Forest Lawn, and Whose Garden Was This.*

Introduction: Pinky Bass

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

**Sunday Service and Youth Fellowship, 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: Solar Power Works

My wife Annabel and I planned and, with the help of other family members Gwen Snyder and Phil Strniste, built our solar home here in 1983. It is partially heated by a greenhouse.

As an example of our home air-conditioning costs, during the four years 1992 through 2002 our bills averaged \$27 per month. We also built an assistant solar hot water heater for \$500, of which \$200 was subsidized by the state of Alabama. It took five years to recover payback but over the last 15 years, the solar system has reduced our gas bill by \$900.

Anyone considering building now should include a solar panel for generating at least a portion of their electricity. It is expected that the cost will decrease substantially due in part to Japanese and German government subsidies.

Local expertise may be hard to find since fewer than one percent of the home building contractors tout "Energy Efficient Buildings" in the telephone ads. You may want to plan your own custom solar home as we did. If so, I would be happy to show you through ours as a start in learning about appropriate floor plan, insulation, ventilation, radiant barriers, and so on.

However, plans are everywhere. For example, [www.eere.energy.gov/solar](http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar) periodically shows competitive plans and buildings for solar power from around the world. For help from the state and suggestions as to local contractors, contact Charlene Lee, whose address is in our membership directory.

**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 will appear in the monthly newsletter as space allows, and is sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee. – *Debbie Jessup, Chair, Green Sanctuary Committee*

## FUF Library Reorganized

As you may already know, I have taken on the task of keeping up with the FUF Library. Due to the plethora of books in some categories and dearth in others, I have had to rearrange the shelves somewhat. If there is something specific that you cannot find, give me a call and I'll try to remember what I did with it! Some items have been put in the file cabinet in the storage room next to the stage, brochures are in one of the chests in the lobby, other items have been consolidated.

### **If you are donating books to the library:**

Please only bring books appropriate to Unitarianism. This is not a repository for all your unwanted books. We do not have room for novels, cook books, joke books, etc. (except those written by our members, of course). Those can be donated to the Fairhope or Daphne Libraries for their book sales; or, better yet, for our own yard sale.

I will also periodically be throwing out the oldest of the magazines. It's beginning to look like a doctor's office in here, with all the years-old magazines! Current issues of magazines should be placed in the rack in the office; older issues can be weeded out from there and put on the baker's rack in the lobby.

Please put new items in my file box on top of the computer desk so I can add them to our list before they are put on the shelf.

### **If you are checking books out of our library:**

There is a black, three-ring binder on the top shelf of the computer desk in which you should note the date and title of the book you are borrowing, as well as your name. Please don't write the information on a rat note and leave it on the desk. Also in that book are lists of the items we have, sorted either by title, author, or category.

If you have any questions, comments, or complaints, give me a call.

– *Pam Perkins*

## Our Fellowship Has Something for Everyone!



### Let the Games Continue!

Fellowship members and friends continue to enjoy a variety of games on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month.

Recently, the word game Quiddler® has become very popular, while poker usually maintains its draw as the most popular activity. Want to learn mah jongg? We have a member who can teach you this ancient Chinese tile game. (Call Pam Perkins, 621-5416, if you're interested.) Rummikub®, Bridge, Scrabble, cribbage, dominoes and cards are available.

Bring your own beverage, and a snack if you like. A voluntary collection is usually taken, in the form of a 50/50 raffle.

Join us starting at 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays, September 8 and 22.

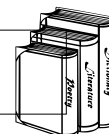
– *Ruth Geraci*

### Third Saturday Entertainment Movie

**Who Framed Roger Rabbit?** (PG, 1988) is billed as a technically marvelous, cinematically hilarious, eye-popping combination of cartoon and live action. Join Fellowship members and friends in enjoying this film September 15, 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There is no admission charge, but donations are accepted.

– *Wilma Albers*

### Author Discussion Group



The Author Discussion Group selects one author whose works are read and discussed on the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Join us for stimulating conversations. Upcoming authors:  
September: Sinclair Lewis  
October: Edith Wharton  
November: David McCullough

### Opportunity For the Bird-Lovers

Birding Field Trips will leave the Fellowship parking lot at 8 a.m., returning by noon or early afternoon. Carpool or caravan. No charge, suggested \$10 per trip donation to Fellowship. Dates: Wednesdays, September 19, October 10 and November 14. Let me know by email or phone if you plan to participate so that I may notify you of any changes.

Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. I have extras if needed. Participants should be able to walk unassisted for at least one mile over rough terrain. Trips are for beginner and intermediate birders. Experience is not required. If birds are scarce we look for native plants and other aspects of nature. Members, Friends and Guests are welcome. Come join the fun! Contact me at 928-6526 or [Hindsite5@bellsouth.net](mailto:Hindsite5@bellsouth.net).

### Non-Fiction Book Review Group

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

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

### Looking for Film Buffs to Start Group

Michael Patrick and Bert Brun, self-avowed film buffs, wonder if other like-minded FUFers would be interested in discussing the possibility of an informal "film club." An occasional presentation might thereafter be generated. If so, please contact one of them by phone or email.

Michael: [patrick36532@bellsouth.net](mailto:patrick36532@bellsouth.net), 990-8203.  
Bert: [bertbrun73@bellsouth.net](mailto:bertbrun73@bellsouth.net), 214-3786.

## Notes from Fellowship August Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by Ed Lawrence, Chairman of the Board. Other Board members present were: Wilma Albers, E. J. Campfield, Stu Chapman, Diane Ehlers, Ruth Geraci, Terry Lindquist, Jule Moon, and Pam Perkins. Also present was Ann Chapman, Social Action Committee Chair.

Further research will be done regarding changing the lock on the Fellowship's front door, and updating the smoke and fire protection system.

The Board accepted an invitation from the Society of Friends to co-sponsor the September 21 Peace Vigil. Ann Chapman will coordinate our participation.

A Fellowship representation and travel reimbursement policy was approved.

The Board approved a \$100 donation for Alabama Arise.

Social Action Committee Chair Ann Chapman reported on the committee's recommendations for charitable contributions. The Board approved funding for the Heifer/Water Buffalo Project.

The search continues for a religious education program provider for Youth Fellowship.

A questionnaire will be developed to update the Board's understanding of Membership wishes and needs.

The monthly pot luck will now be held on the last Sunday of each month, rather than the fourth Sunday.

The next Board meeting will be held September 14, 9:30 a.m.

## Knitters Needed to Support Children's Cause and Enjoy Fellowship on Tuesdays

Our Fellowship's Knitting Group meets each Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. in the Library. It is always open to new members, and knitters are needed now more than ever. Instruction in knitting techniques is available, so beginners are welcome.

The international organization **Afghans for Afghans** has just issued a call for 4,000+ wool garments. You can read the message and see specific needs at this site: [www.afghansforafghans.org](http://www.afghansforafghans.org)

We've been concerned that we don't have enough time to meet our commitment for the youth campaign, and so we've been able to push the due date to October 12 in the US.

The Church World Service has requested blankets, hats, mittens, socks, sweaters, and vests for youth, ages 7-14 years. Our gifts are going to be distributed at children's rehabilitation and health centers

in Kabul and Bamiyan. These programs treat children who have been traumatized psychologically and physically by the years of war and poverty. Many have lost loved ones in front of their eyes. The girls and boys benefit from physical recreation, lessons in health and hygiene, nutrition, and social skills such as cooperation and peace-building. Church World Service has supported the region since 1954 and works in partnership with Afghan organizations. (Church World Service does not proselytize.)

Thanks mostly to Maud Van Eysbergen, Pat Smith and Thelma Topper, our Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship already has several sweaters, hats, and one tiny pair of warm woolen mittens ready to go. I have extra wool for this purpose; let me know if you need some and have time to knit. And thanks for helping on this project.

*- Gail Gardner, 928-3041*

## Meet Our New Fellowship Member



In 2005, **J.B. Comincon's** August 29 birthday was one he'll never forget. It was the day hurricane Katrina hit, destroying the Gulfport

Armed Forces Retirement Home where he lived and pummeling New Orleans, a city he loves and has lived in much of his adult life. J.B. knew about Fairhope and decided to move here until the Home was rebuilt.

J.B. is a native of Louisiana and was born on a plantation in Avoyelles Parish. After completing high school in Lafayette, at age 17 he joined the U.S. Naval Air Force and was assigned to a World War II patrol bombing squadron. He served for three years and after the war used the G.I. Bill to attend the University of Virginia where he majored in International Relations and Foreign Affairs, a member of the first class to graduate from the new Woodrow Wilson School of Foreign Affairs there. I majored in something I never used, J.B. says, as he recounted the direction his career took later.

A civil war in Greece and an engagement to a girl who had never been out of Virginia led J.B. to turn down his first international job offer, in Greece. J.B. and his new wife moved to Lovingston, Virginia, a small town where his father had worked for the Southern Railroad. In Lovingston, he coached high school sports for two years. If you have good players, they'll make you a good coach, J.B. recalled, and I had good players.

J.B.'s coaching success led to a job in the personnel department of a chemical company with offices in New Orleans. After leaving the chemical company, he became New Orleans Manager for Sealtest Milk Company and later, briefly, was Sealtest's sales manager for New York City. I was used to driving ten minutes to work, he says, and in New York commuting took an hour one way and an hour back. He and his family moved back to Metairie, near New Orleans.

J.B.'s love of sports has resulted in lifelong involvement with them. He has served as Director of Athletic Programs at Liberty University, University of South Alabama, and Millsaps College, and is completing his 37th year as a member of the Sugar Bowl Committee; he's spoken throughout the country on topics related to the Committee's work.

Twice widowed, J.B. has three children, two of whom live in the South. His daughter and her husband live in Mississippi and own a home in Orange Beach; J.B. sees them often. J.B. was a member of the Methodist Church when growing up but in adulthood stopped attending. He began visiting the Fairhope Fellowship months ago and found Unitarianism practical and realistic. It recognizes the dignity of man.

J.B. enjoys writing and is particularly interested in U.S. colonial history. His published works include a colonial history of Nelson County, Virginia, 1734-1807, and he is currently revising his book, **You Don't Put Crawfish on Turnip Greens.**

J.B. plans to return to Gulfport eventually. It will be at least two years before the Armed Forces Retirement Home destroyed by Katrina will be rebuilt. In the meantime he's enjoying life in Fairhope.

### CLF Offers UU Gifts

Looking for a suitable Unitarian gift or piece of jewelry? Try the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) for a variety of items such as chalice-themed necklaces, earrings, tie tacks, and pins. They also offer note cards and other gifts. Order through the UU website,

<http://www.uua.org/clf/catalog>.



## Reception Planned for Artists Exhibiting at Fellowship

The Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship is pleased to announce an exhibition of prints, drawings and photographs by Nancy Marshall and John McWilliams entitled *Santee Paradise*. The opening reception for this exhibition will be held Saturday afternoon, September 8, 3-5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Chamber Group will perform and the public is invited.

These renowned artists live in McClellanville, SC, and will be showing work done there over the past few years. Marshall and McWilliams are married to each other and will speak on Sunday, September 9 at 11 AM. Their talk is titled *Coming from a Shared Place: Two Artists Working Together and Separately*.

Nancy Marshall received her BA in Journalism and MFA in Photography from Georgia State University. From 1988 through 2005 Marshall was Senior Lecturer and later Visual Arts Program Director at Emory University in Atlanta. In the 70s she served as Staff Photographer for Governor Jimmy Carter. Marshall has been awarded a SAF/NEA Fellowship as well as an Ossabaw Island Genesis Project Residency. Nexus Press published her limited edition monograph *Ossabaw* in 1982.

Marshall has exhibited extensively in the USA as well as France and Mexico. The Montgomery Museum of Fine Art, the High Museum in Atlanta and the Woodstock Center for Photography are among the collections in which her work is represented. Beginning September 25 Marshall's photographs of Flannery O'Connor's Georgia home and farm will be on view at the Visual Arts Gallery at Emory University in Atlanta.

John McWilliams received his BFA and MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and served as Director of the School of Art and Design at Georgia State University in Atlanta. Previously, he was Graduate Director and

Arts Fellowship as well as a Guggenheim Fellowship. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and is in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, the Fogg Museum and the Smithsonian, among others.

McWilliams's monograph *Land of Deepest Shade: Photographs of the South* by John McWilliams was published by Aperture in 1989.

Since retiring from Georgia State McWilliams has focused on drawing, painting and printmaking. This exhibition will include some of his recent drawing and prints.

## Volunteers Save the Fellowship \$1,000.

Calculating volunteer work at \$14/hour, I figure volunteers saved FUF more than \$1,000 recently. The Fellowship probably has the prettiest garbage can/utility area in Fairhope, thanks to Mary Ellen Hoffman. She volunteered for the dirty job and made that corner very presentable. Summer heat did not deter Kris Lindquist from pulling weeds and vines and pruning many of the shrubs, some of this work at sunrise. Charlie Earl finished off that chore by trimming the holly shrubs at the eastern edge of parking lot. Flo Schneider cleaned and polished the wooden doors at the main entrance.

Al Carl and Pat Portier have volunteered for additional work.

**Who will wash the windows? Who will transport the two wheelbarrows to an air source to inflate their tires?** A pick-up truck is best, although I have hauled them in my van.

Next big task is ordering several loads of gravel to improve the parking lot. Any volunteers to supervise that chore? George Hinds will negotiate with gravel haulers for the delivery. Then a spreader must be hired to level the gravel. Let me know if you are willing to help. Phone 928-6526 or Email [hindsite5@bellsouth.net](mailto:hindsite5@bellsouth.net)

- Celeste Hinds

## Fellowship Social Action Committee News

The Social Action Committee is pleased to announce that this committee has approved the donation of a water buffalo to a Philippine village. This is a large animal that can do a great deal of work for people very much in need – at a reasonable price, \$250 – to be purchased through the Heifer Project. This donation will mean that this Fellowship reaches a hand across the ocean to help spread Heifer's dedication to Gender Equity as a first step in the reduction of hunger and poverty. The Project provides training in husbandry and leadership to recipients, including stipulation of women in leadership positions. Heifer tells us that 70 percent of the world's poor are women but women produce between 55% and 80% of the world's food, depending on the area of the world. This will be our gift to helping others help themselves.

There will be a Peace Vigil held at the Fairhope Town Park to the South of the pier on Friday, 9/21 from 5-7 p.m., co-sponsored by the Friends and our FUF. More details later.

### **Donations Needed**

Due to the gratitude and need expressed by Ecumenical Ministries as well as comments from people who regretted the months we did not collect donations, we WILL continue to supply the most-needed food items only: pasta and spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and jelly. Paper goods are always needed, also. So, the box in the foyer will stay there for donations starting in September.

### **FUF Volunteers for Habitat**

We thank the several FUF members who signed on as volunteers with Habitat for Humanity following Brenda Lowther's talk on August 12: Margaret Dozier, Charles Earl, Ruth Pratt, Jill Teumer, Jane Finger, Pat Smith and Stu Chapman. Since then, Brenda has e-mailed us about two AmericaCorps VISTA openings in conjunction with our local Habitat office. Details are posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship foyer. Any qualifying young

people would do well to look into this opportunity which offers as part of its reimbursement help with tuition costs.

Habitat also announces that signing on to [www.Goodsearch.com](http://www.Goodsearch.com) for your internet searches and identifying Habitat as your charity of choice can benefit them. Quality-powered by YAHOO, it doesn't have pop-ups or viruses. Any questions for Habitat: call Brenda at 943-7268.

### **Oaxaca Update**

Remember the movie about the Teachers' Strike for a living wage in Oaxaca, Mexico, the one that occasioned violent government retaliation? Bill and Billye McBride now report the spread of demonstrations because indigenous people want control over their lands and the vital water supply in the face of threatened government seizure to allow inroads to trans-national interests. Shop owners, taxi drivers, bureaucrats and bus drivers, even some police are protesting Governor Ruiz's administration which is blocking traffic and preventing construction of roads, schools and bridges. It's reported that infrastructure all over the state is crumbling.

### **Alabama Arise to Meet**

Anyone interested in attending the Alabama Arise Annual Meeting Saturday, 9/15/07, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in Montgomery, please contact Ann Chapman, 929-0894. Al. Arise has been working on state tax and constitutional reform, funding for health care, child care, education and public transportation; and creation of a law defining rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants. It also monitors all proposed legislation to evaluate potential impact on low-income Alabamians.

### **Concerned by Costs of Education?**

Katherine Thompson has notified us about the number and size of fees charged to Fairhope Public School students. Anyone interested in inquiring further into this, please get in touch with Ann Chapman or a member of this committee.

Thanks for supporting Social Action!!!

## Fifth Saturday Concert Features Return of Popular "Old Folkie" Ken Sizemore

The "Fifth Saturday Concert Series" continues when the old folkie Ken Sizemore of Panama City, Florida makes a repeat appearance at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship on Saturday, September 29, starting at 7 p.m. Ken is a folk singer and guitarist who plays the classic folk music of the '50's and 60's.

A unique aspect of this concert is that we, the audience, will pick the songs we want him to sing. A five-page **Request List** has been posted on the Fellowship web site ([www.fairhopeuu.org](http://www.fairhopeuu.org)). You can e-mail the Fellowship with songs you'd like him to sing.

Among the songs to choose from are those made famous by such artists as Peter, Paul and Mary, the Kingston Trio, Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan, Woody Guthrie, John Denver, and many others. Some of the pop artists that Ken includes in his repertoire are the Everly Brothers, Buddy Holly, Neil Diamond, Jim Croce, James Taylor, Harry Belafonte and even Elvis Presley. He also pays tribute to country greats including Johnny Cash, Johnny Horton, Roger Miller, and more.

Everyone is welcome; a contribution of \$7.00 is requested. (Ken will be the guest speaker at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship service at 11 a.m. Sunday Sept. 30; he will be talking about folk singer and song writer Tom Paxton.)

### 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 Calendar

**Tue., Sept. 4:** Knitters' Group, 1-3 p.m.

**Tue., Sept. 4:** Men's Chorus, 3-4 p.m.

**Wed., Sept. 5:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.

**Thur., Sept. 6:** Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.

**Sat., Sept. 8:** Game Night, 6:30-9 p.m.

**Sun., Sept. 9:** Social Action Committee meets, 12:15 p.m.

**Tue., Sept. 11:** Knitters' Group, 1-3 p.m.

**Tue., Sept. 11:** Men's Chorus, 3-4 p.m.

**Wed., Sept. 12:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.

**Thur., Sept. 13:** Author Discussion Group, 9:30 a.m.

**Sat., Sept. 15:** Entertainment movie, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*, 7 p.m.

**Tue., Sept. 18:** Knitters' Group, 1-3 p.m.

**Tue., Sept. 18:** Men's Chorus, 3-4 p.m.

**Wed., Sept. 19:** Birding Field Trip, 8 a.m.

**Wed., Sept. 19:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.

**Thur., Sept. 20:** Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.

**Sat., Sept. 22:** Game Night, 6:30 p.m.

**Tue., Sept. 25:** Knitters' Group, 1-3 p.m.

**Tues., Sept. 25:** Fellowship Choir rehearsal, 3-4 p.m.

**Wed., Sept. 26:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.

**Sat., Sept. 29:** Fifth Saturday Night Concert, Ken Sizemore, the Old Folkie, 7 p.m.

