

September 2008



Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Sept. 7 REV. SHIRLEY GEER: “What the Unity Church Is”

Rev. Geer will briefly discuss the history of the Unity Movement, what Unity churches believe, and the similarities and differences between Unity and Unitarian principles. Unity has more of a perspective on life than a religious doctrine and teaches a New Thought way to view all aspects of life. Unity accepts all faiths, believing that everyone is on a path to finding the God-Source, and that every path leads to God.

Introduction: Caroline Garbett

Sept. 14 E. J. CAMPFIELD: “Apocalypticism Now & Then”

As it was at the turn of the millennium in 2001, apocalypticism is again in the headlines with mystic dates in 2012 looming large in the public imagination. Join us as we look at several modern and ancient cultic movements from both Jewish and Christian traditions that have touted specific prophecy about "the end of the world" and discover the one significant trait all have had in common.

Introduction: Bud Gardner

Sept. 21 REV. ELAINE BUKER: “One Noble Cause”

Retired United Methodist minister Elaine Buker will provide a portrayal of Dr. Anna Howard Shaw – a hugely influential but forgotten leader of the women's movement in the early 20th Century. Dressed for the part, Elaine will share excerpts from Dr. Shaw's reflections on "what women really know about war" and other stirring subjects. She will leave listeners with better understanding of the early days of the suffragette movement.

Introduction: Mary Ellen Hoffman

Sept. 28 SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE: “The Ways of Our Wise Giving”

Members of the Fellowship's Social Action Committee will share information about various social action/justice causes which the Committee considers worth supporting. Many members indicated in last year's survey that they were unfamiliar with some of the organizations the Committee had recommended for donations. Come learn about these organizations and get your questions answered.

Introduction: Ruth Geraci

Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the Sept. 28 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. Come join us!

Write 1150 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope, AL 36532. Tel. 251-929-3207. Visit our website at

www.fairhopeuu.org

President's Message

Volunteers Needed to Keep our Fellowship Running Smoothly

Our Fellowship is grateful to the people who take on those necessary tasks to keep FUF running smoothly. When we announced that we needed someone to sweep the gravel off our sidewalks, it was done. When we requested someone take over getting the trash bin out each week, a helpful Member stepped up to the plate. **We have great people!**

Now, we have some vacancies to be filled, and I'm trusting someone among you will find each of these volunteer positions a good fit. For those of you who are nervous about assuming leadership, we have ways around that as well. The Social Action Committee has been doing a fine job of functioning with rotating volunteer chairs! By the way, you don't have to be a Member to take on a volunteer position or join a committee; Friends are needed to support our Fellowship as well!

Here's what YOU can do:

Membership Committee: Participate in this committee's efforts to make new members and friends feel welcome, organize membership events such as orientation, write notes of welcome, maintain the Membership List.

Fundraising Committee: First, we need people with ideas about how we can increase our treasury and provide financial security for FUF. Then, we also need people who can help carry out these ideas, such as concerts, special programs, yard sales and activities. You can give as much or as little time and effort to this endeavor as works for you.

Lawn and Garden Committee: We really appreciate those people who are willing to get out there and get dirty! The more people who volunteer for this committee, the easier the job.

Religious Education Committee: This committee is currently inactive. Occasionally, someone steps forward and offers to facilitate a discussion group, which falls under this category, and we used to have a Sunday classroom experience for children. Are you

gathering information on what the Fellowship would like regarding classes, discussion groups, educational opportunities? Would you like to see children in our Fellowship once again? (I believe they are out there; we just have nothing to offer them right now.) We very much need people who are willing to commit to developing this area of our Fellowship.

Sunday Bulletin: This is really an enjoyable job, requiring minimal computer skills and allowing some creativity. These weekly bulletins can be designed in advance, allowing for vacations, and while they currently follow a specific template, we're open to a new look if you'd like to design it.

Nominating Committee: This is a short-term (approximately two months - Oct-Nov.) commitment, requiring the willingness to ask Members to become officers of the Fellowship. In order to do this, you will attend a meeting to learn the requirements of the various Board positions, discuss likely candidates, and determine their willingness to serve.

Board Officers: We will elect a new slate of FUF officers in December, including President, Chairman of the Board, Vice President, Vice President in charge of Programs, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. If you are interested in what any of these entail, I'll be glad to share a job description with you. Volunteers for offices are much appreciated! (Note: FUF Board officers must be Members.)

Interested? Come and talk with me, or contact me by email: uuruthg@gulftel.com We can meet and talk over coffee or lunch perhaps. I will fill you in on how the job works, and you can think about it. No pressure (well, perhaps a little.) I believe every Member and Friend can find a way to support our Fellowship.

Warning: We really need these committees filled out. If no one volunteers, I'll have to come looking for you. Don't make me get out my flying monkeys!

Fall 2008 Survey of FUF Members and Friends

With the FUF annual meeting coming up December 7, the Budget Committee is at work developing the proposed budget for 2009, which Members will then vote on. The Fellowship Board would like to get FUF Members' and Friends' input regarding financial support of our national and regional Unitarian affiliates – the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Mid-South District of UUA (MSD).

*Please read the information provided, and then respond to the survey. Return the survey to the Fellowship no later than **September 21**, so that your ideas may be considered in this matter. You may return the survey by dropping it in the comment box (brown wicker) in the foyer, placing it in the collection plate, or by mailing it to Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship, 1150 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope, AL 36532.*

Background

The Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship historically has voted in its budget to give only a portion of the fair share requested by the national organization (UUA). To give you an idea of what's considered fair share by UUA for each of its congregations, this is where we stand in comparison to other UUs in Alabama for 2007 and 2008:

	Total operating budget	No. of members	UUA Fair share 08	Pledged 08	Paid to date	UUA Fair share 07	Paid 07
Auburn UU	101,551	93	5,022	5,022	5,022	4,876	4,876
Birmingham UU	3,171,676	233	12,582	12,582	12,582	10,865	10,865
Camp Hill UU	9,000	12	648	300	300	636	390
Fairhope UF	40,000	82	4,428	2,500	1250	4240	1,100
UU Florence	21,177	32	1,728	1,728	1,728	1,219	1,219
UU Huntsville	136,435	132	7,128	7,128	7,128	6,625	6,625
UU Mobile	38,000	55	2,970	2,970	3,211	2,491	2,491
UU Montgomery	158,070	95	5,130	5,130	5,130	4,929	4,929
UU Tuscaloosa	98,911	89	4,806	4,806	4,806	5,035	5,035

MSD, which also operates on funds provided by UU congregations in the immediate area, requested \$1640 from us for 2008, based on our past membership report of 82, at \$20 per member. We increased our contribution to MSD in 2008 by budgeting \$1,000, of which \$500 has been paid to date.

For 2009, UUA has determined our fair share contribution to its operating budget at \$4,760. That is based upon our last reported membership figure of 85. (We actually have 116 individual members now.) At \$56 per member, our UUA fair share would be \$6,496. For 2009, MSD has requested \$1700 based on 85 members. At \$20 per member for 116 members, our MSD fair share would be \$2320.

In general, our question is, do we pay our fair share as determined by UUA's and MSD's formulas, or do we continue to decide what our fair share is, and pay accordingly?

You may be asking, What do we get from our affiliations? Beyond our being able to call ourselves a Unitarian Fellowship, here's what UUA says:

Connecting UUs: The UUA helps Unitarian Universalists (UUs) connect with each other beyond their congregation's walls. Our email lists are places to discuss a wide range of topics with other UUs and non-UUs. UUA districts offer a range of conferences to the congregations that they serve. And General Assembly is the annual meeting of the UUA, held each June, with workshops and events for every UU.

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Witnessing our faith in the world: Unitarian Universalist values are brought to members of our congregations, their leaders, elected representatives, and the wider world through public witness work conducted by member congregations, districts, and UUA appointed and elected leaders. To keep up with UUA news stories, subscribe to our RSS feed, or subscribe to UUA-L, our news and information email announcement list.

UU World, in print and online: UU World magazine is published four times a year and mailed to members of all UUA member congregations. (If you don't receive a copy and think you should, check with your congregation's office.) For more frequent news updates, visit uuworld.org, which offers a UU news blog, timely articles, and other features, published every week.

Financial Services and stewardship of investments: The UUA is able to provide services to our members through the support of our member congregations and donations to the UUA's Annual Program Fund or those that support major programs or initiatives. When the UUA receives monies to support programs, or receives gifts, trusts, and endowments, those holdings receive careful investment management. Monies and items of value may be held in trust for the benefit of the Association, for member Congregations, and/or held in trust for Associate or Affiliate organizations. The successful management of these funds is vital to the current and future success of the Association and its constituencies.

Lay Leaders: The **InterConnections** newsletter provides useful articles for the volunteers who run your congregations. Online, you can search the Leaders' Library to find resources for those who lead our congregations (lay and ordained). The UUA also offers a number of programs to congregations, including fundraising consultations, loans and grants, programs for keeping congregations safe for all, small group ministry (covenant groups) resources, growth programs, marketing and advertising materials, and more.

Social Justice: Action is at the center of our faith for many UUs, and the UUA has many resources and services to promote social action. They include programs that address racism, environmental concerns, freedom to marry, and other issues. The UUA also works with a range of affiliated organizations, including the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), UU Ministry for the Earth, and many others in seeking to inform and educate around social issues.

Religious Education: Our Lifespan Faith Development staff group offers a list of available UU religious education resources as well as information to support religious educators, both professional and volunteer. The UUA is currently engaged in producing a series of new curricula produced as part of the Tapestry of Faith program.

– excerpt from website, www.UUA.org

Fall 2008 FUF Survey of Members and Friends

Please provide your opinion (by checkmark) on the following and return this form to FUF by Sept 21:

1. The Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship should

Give the annual fair share as determined by UUA and MSD based on our current membership

Give a portion (percentage) only of the fair share that is determined by UUA and MSD

– If you've chosen pay a portion only,

a. The FUF percentage of the fair share amount should be _____%

b. The amount should be based upon a percentage of our total budget, not to exceed _____%, to be determined by the Board each year.

Do not give funds to support UUA and MSD.

2. Part of our fair share to UUA pays a subscription to the quarterly **UU World** for Members.

Are you a Member of FUF? Yes No

If yes, do you currently receive this subscription? Yes No

If not receiving, do you wish to receive it? Yes No

Do you wish to cancel your subscription? Yes No

Note: If you do wish to start or cancel your subscription, please provide your name to Ruth Geraci.

COMMENTS:

Retrospective Art Exhibition - Ann Marie Brown

Opening Reception September 20, 3-5 pm

The Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship is pleased to host a Retrospective Exhibition of the painting of Ann Marie Brown (nee O'Brien), 1937-2007. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, September 13 from 3-5 pm. Ann's husband, Doug Brown is graciously lending the works for this exhibition. He and several other members of her family will be in attendance. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Ann was born the second of five children in 1937 to Albert O'Brien and Clair Tierney O'Brien and raised in Watertown, New York. She graduated from Potsdam College with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. She began her teaching career in Camden, New York, where she met and married Douglas Harlow Brown. They married in October 1960. They had five children— Kathleen Marie, Dale Michael, Judith Lynn, Karen Jean and Jacqueline Suzanne. The family moved to Massachusetts, Vermont, Tennessee, Virginia, and finally to Michigan in 1979. In 2000 Doug & Ann purchased a second home in Fairhope, Alabama, where they spent their winters until Ann passed away in April 2007 at the young age of 69.

Ann painted briefly in oils in her early years, but painted primarily in watercolors for the rest of her life. She particularly enjoyed painting landscapes, scenery and still-life works. Most recently, one of her works was exhibited at an art show at the Eastern Shore Art Center in Fairhope in 2004 and 2005.

Her artistry was expressed in other mediums as well, including pictures using dried flowers; designing, painting and needle pointing Christmas stockings for her family, and one charcoal pencil portrait. For several years, she painted her Labrador/Chesapeake Bay Retriever mix dog, Maggie, into all of her paintings. It might just be her tail, or her

or it might be all of her, but Maggie for a while was in all her paintings!

Ann was never formally trained to draw or paint and was quite modest about her artistic abilities. Though her family always expressed their admiration of her work, she would reply that they could do equally as well if not better if they applied themselves even a little bit.

Ann was inspired by watching television art shows, such as Bob Ross's show on PBS, though she did not try to copy their style. In fact, every day at 1:00 she would make her grilled cheese sandwich and settle in to watch her favorite art shows on PBS.

Fellowship member Jeanine Normand, Dr. Jazz, will provide music during the reception. Jeanine grew up in New Orleans and has been performing professionally since the age of 12. She began in her father's legendary Jack Normand Orchestra at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear.

– Submitted by Pinky Bass



What art offers is space — a certain breathing room for the spirit.

~ John Updike



Donations Sought

Our Fellowship is in need of a new computer system for the FUF office. The computer is a key part of keeping track of data for FUF, and the current one is in failing health, not able to keep up with our needs at this point. For that purpose a fund has been established. Donations earmarked for the computer fund are being accepted. If you would like to help with this specific need, please mark your donation accordingly and put it in the collection plate or give it to Treasurer Kay Seymour.

PLEASE NOTE

KEYS, CODES, GARAGE SALE

To maximize the security of our building all exterior door locks have been changed. The code to the kitchen door will be changed soon. See Pam Perkins if you need a new key. Pam is also the contact to get the new door code once it's programmed. Those given the new code are asked to refrain from giving it to anyone.

Due to the hot weather and the A/C in the garden house not keeping up, sales after services are cancelled until further notice. Contact Pam Perkins if you have items to donate before the weather cools.

New Knitting Project: Help Needed

The FUF Knitting Group which meets Tuesdays is working now with an Afghan police consultant who is in constant contact with two orphanages of 20 children each. We are sending hats from our knitting group and hope to send mittens also. The package will be mailed mid-September, so anyone able to produce some woolen mittens would be much appreciated. We have been promised pictures when the children receive these gifts. This is a bit more personal than our regular shipments which are part of a larger US effort, Afghans for Afghans, where we don't see specifically who gets the garments. We continue to support that effort as well.

- Pat Smith

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

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Nancy Martin

DISTRIBUTION: Diane Ehlers and Ruth Allbritton

Mark Your Calendar

Tue., Sep. 2 Knitters' Group 1-3pm

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

Thu., Sep. 4 Nonfiction Book Group 930am

Fri., Sep. 5 FUF Board Meeting 930 am

Tue., Sep. 9 Knitters' Group 1-3pm

Wed., Sep. 10 Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm

Thu., Sep. 11 Authors Discussion Group 930am

Sat., Sep. 13: Art Reception 3-5pm

Sat., Sep. 13: Game Night 630-9pm

Sun., Sep. 14: Social Action Committee 12-130pm

Tue., Sep. 16: Knitters' Group 130-330pm

(Knitters -note the time change effective 9/16)

Tue., Sep. 16: Choir rehearsal 330pm

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

Thur., Sep. 18: Nonfiction Book Group 930am

Sat., Sep. 20: Documentary Movie 7pm

Tue., Sep. 23: Knitters' Group 1:0-330pm

Tue., Sep. 23: Choir rehearsal 330pm

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

Fri., Sep. 26: FUF Board meets, 930am

Sat., Sep. 27: Game Night 630-9pm

Sun., Sep. 28: Last Sunday Potluck 12pm



DOCUMENTARY MOVIE SEPT 20

The September documentary movie will not be shown the first Saturday, as is usual, but rather on the third Saturday: September 20, at 7pm. The movie will be a 2005 film: *Enron - The Smartest Guys in the Room*. The 109 minute movie presents the inside story of one of history's greatest business scandals.

This searing examination of the Enron accounting scandal reveals the psychology of greed and corporate corruption that facilitated the company's rise to power and also its fall. When Enron went bankrupt in 2001, the principals walked away millionaires--but later faced legal proceedings.

- Ed Lawrence