

October 2007



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Oct. 7 **AMANDA OUTLAW: “Family Safety: Are You Ready? Preparing for Disaster”**

Amanda Outlaw is the Mobile County Regional Urban Extension Agent, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service.

Introduction: Bert Brun

Cookies: Elaine Rogers and Pat Portier

Oct. 14 **ELAINE BUKER: “The Faces of Humor”**

Lillian, AL, resident Elaine Buker is a retired United Methodist minister who has served churches in Massachusetts, West Virginia and Michigan. She says, “The sad state of the political, economic and spiritual life of our own nation and around the world calls us to keep our lives in personal, wholistic balance. The simple human expression of laughter induces physical, emotional and spiritual benefits that rival scientific compounds. Healthy laughter and humor can help lift our spirits from the heartbreak and despair we see around us.”

Introduction: Celeste Hinds

Cookies: Nancy Martin

Oct. 21 **CARL COURET: “The Everglades Restoration Project”**

The Everglades is a microcosm of the entire environmental movement. The eyes of the world are watching the Everglades Restoration Project, seeing just how much damage a hundred years of forced control have inflicted, and just how far the public will extend itself towards remediation. Carl Couret is a Fish and Wildlife Biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Introduction: Elaine Snyder-Conn

Cookies: Diane Ehlers

Oct. 28 **FELLOWSHIP MEMBERS: “Why I am a Unitarian Universalist”**

Several longtime UUs who are members of our Fellowship will speak about their choice of religion, followed by a new short film produced by the Unitarian Universalist Association entitled “Voices of a Liberal Faith”. A comment period will follow as time allows.

Introductions: Ruth Geraci

Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the October 28 program. Please bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship and good conversations. NOTE: This month the potluck will be outside by the river at Frank and Pat Laraway’s home on County Road 48, unless it rains (in which case it will be at the Fellowship). Call 945-5504 for

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

Full Month of Activities Planned at Fellowship

New FUF Discussion Group Starts

The new Thursday Night Colloquium (TNC) will provide an opportunity for interested Fellowship members and friends to learn and share ideas on a variety of topics. Each topic will be introduced with a 10-15 minute presentation, followed by a moderated discussion of the issues raised. October's topics take a brief look at alternatives to faith in religious doctrine. Bud Gardner is organizing this initial discussion series, and will serve as moderator.

The weekly topics and their facilitators are:

- Oct. 4 Humanism, with E.J. Campfield
- Oct. 11 Pantheism, with Harvey Joanning
- Oct. 18 Spirituality, with Ruth Geraci
- Oct. 25 Realism, with Bud Gardner

The TNC will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. each Thursday. Join us!

Reminder for Bird Lovers

Birding field trips this fall leave the Fellowship parking lot at 8 a.m. on October 10 and November 14, returning by noon or early afternoon. Transportation is by carpool or caravan. Although there's no charge, a \$10 per trip donation to the Fellowship is suggested. Let Celeste Hinds know by email or phone if you plan to participate in case of any changes.

Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. 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. Members, Friends and guests are welcome.

- Celeste Hinds, Phone 928-6526,

Third Saturday Entertainment Movie

The Russians Are Coming (PG, 1966) is a smash hit comedy based on *The Off-Islanders* by Nathaniel Benchley. When a Russian submarine accidentally runs aground off the New England coast, silly events follow. Alan Arkin, Carl Reiner, Theodore Bikel, Eva Marie Saint, and Jonathan Winters are among the stellar cast who earned awards for this laugh fest.

Join Fellowship members and friends in enjoying this film October 20, 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There is no admission charge, but donations are welcome.

- Wilma Albers

Docudrama on Guantanamo a Must-See

This month's documentary provides a compelling view of the horrors of war and the nightmare of Guantanamo.

The Road to Guantanamo (2006, 95 minutes) is a docudrama that chronicles the first-hand account of three British citizens who were held for two years without charges in Guantanamo. The young men had set out from England for a wedding in Pakistan, crossed the Afghanistan border just as the U.S. began its bombing campaign, and were captured and imprisoned.

The Fellowship shows a documentary in its auditorium on the first Saturday of each month, starting at 7 p.m. No admission is charged, but donations are welcome. Members, friends and the general public are invited to attend. Refreshments are available.

- Ed Lawrence

Don't Forget Fellowship Game Night, the second and fourth Saturdays of each month!

2007 Membership Survey: Please Participate!

As president of the Fellowship this year, I have received comments and ideas regarding our Sunday program from various members. The Board has agreed to survey Members and Friends to determine your opinions of these matters. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey, then bring it to Fellowship Sunday morning. There will be a box in the foyer labeled "Surveys". If you prefer, you may mail your survey to the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship, 1150 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope, AL 36532. Please be sure your survey reaches us by Oct. 15. Your opinions are very important to us. – Ruth Geraci

Please mark your response.

1. How important is it to you that Sunday programs reflect a connection with the Seven Unitarian Principles?
Not important at all somewhat important important very important

2. During the fifteen minutes before our Sunday Fellowship starts (10:45-11:00) would you wish to have the auditorium portion of our building established as a quiet place where people can enjoy the music that is provided? The foyer would remain a place of social gathering and conversation.
Yes, the auditorium should be a quiet place for listening and thinking No, maintain the option of chatting in the auditorium as well as the foyer Don't care

3. Do you wish to continue the practice of collecting food and paper donations for the Ecumenical Ministries Food Pantry?
Yes, on an ongoing weekly basis Yes, on a monthly basis several times a year Yes, once or twice a year No

4. Please indicate your priorities regarding each of the following charities (listed alphabetically) which have been named as potential recipients of our Fellowship donations: *Place a checkmark under your priority for each charity.*

	<u>high priority</u>	<u>medium priority</u>	<u>low priority</u>	<u>not at all</u>
Aid to Inmate Mothers	___	___	___	___
A labam a A rise... ..	___	___	___	___
A labam a Free C lin ic... ..	___	___	___	___
A m nesty In ternational..	___	___	___	___
B aldwin C ounty R escue...	___	___	___	___
Fairhope Educ. Enrichment	___	___	___	___
H abitat for H um anity... ..	___	___	___	___
In terfaith A lliance... ..	___	___	___	___
L ighthouse... ..	___	___	___	___
Oxfam	___	___	___	___
P roject H ope... ..	___	___	___	___
Southern Poverty Law Center	___	___	___	___
UU-U N O	___	___	___	___
W orld V ision... ..	___	___	___	___

5. What do you think is a fair amount to suggest as a donation for attending our Saturday Night Concerts? _____

Your comments on any of the above:

Please return this page to the Fellowship by October 15. Thank you for your participation!

Social Action Committee News

The holidays are only a month away, and on November 18, FUF will join other UUSCs (Unitarian Universalist Service Committees) in the annual Guest at Your Table celebration. Through the holidays, we can create the virtual reality of a visitor from a foreign land, someone who very much needs the help that we can give. Begin to consider someone you might invite to your table and consider contributing your change at the end of each day toward dollars that make a difference. Also, consider becoming an individual member of UUSC yourself – details to follow.

Peace Vigil

That international feeling was very much with us on the evening of Sept. 21 when the warning of a tropical storm threatened to interfere with our Fairhope-style International Peace Vigil... but it went on as planned. There was a breeze just brisk enough to blow out the repeatedly lighted candles of 25 or so participants from the Friends Society and FUF. (Agnes, from Friends, brought candles in cups for everyone, which helped.) One could see across the bay despite clouds overhead – no stars but a hazy quarter moon hung in the sky. Only once, when the comment was made that there was no rain did a sprinkling occur, but by the time the umbrellas went up the rain stopped, happening as though scripted.

There were interludes of talk and thoughtfulness. Discussion evolved from the following:

1. Public focus on war rather than on peace which carries the danger of self-fulfilling prophesy.
2. The recitation of the words to *How Can I Keep from Smiling?*, especially about the sense of security that derives from being loved. In conflict, however, especially in war, there exists fear, tension, readiness for defense and attack.
3. The promise and the threat of globalization: the possibility of increased understanding and

contradictory appeal of the closeness felt by people in the common cause of war. Also, there are the complications of emerging third world industrialization, including greed and malevolence.

4. A desire for genuineness in leadership but the spoiling effects of funding that politics requires... and the suggestion that perhaps real leadership emerges from obscurity, as did Jesus and Ghandi.

Steve Lyrene from Friends, speaking from a history of regular meditation groups, said that we may wonder about the effectiveness of such groups to effect change but he'd learned over time that he found change to occur within himself. Change in individuals is reflected to others, and the effect of individuals on others can proliferate.

Starting with the weather, it was an evening of contradictions, of awareness, and the warmth of togetherness.

– Ann Chapman

Notes from FUF Board's September Meeting

The Fellowship will purchase several new furnishings, including lighting for art and bulletin boards and glass tops for a desk and table.

Elaine Snyder-Conn is the new chair of the Program Committee. Wilma Albers was thanked for her efforts as preceding chair.

The kitchen will be painted, and the lock on the front door will be replaced. Ruth Geraci will keep a record of key distribution.

The Fellowship membership will be polled as to preferences regarding donations to charities before donations are issued this year.

The nominating committee has determined a slate of officers to be proposed for 2008.

The Board voted that the Friday night picnics will be an official function of the Fellowship.

A Thursday Night Colloquium Series was approved by Board members.

Meet Our New Fellowship Member



Nancy Martin comes to the Fairhope UU Fellowship by way of Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she was a member of All Souls Fellowship, one of the largest Fellowships in the United States. Nancy's early religious experience was in the Episcopal Church, however over the years she became attracted to Unitarian principles.

Nancy's family has deep roots in the St. Louis, Missouri area, and she and her two brothers grew up in Cape Girardeau. After graduating from high school she attended Elmhurst College, near Chicago, graduating with a major in psychology and geography and a minor in urban studies. After graduation she returned to Cape Girardeau and worked for three years at travel agencies there until marrying Dave— to whom she became engaged after dating only six weeks.

Loving Dave and marrying him was like coming home, she recalls. In October they will celebrate 18 years together.

Nancy and Dave moved to Tulsa as newlyweds in 1989 where American Airlines Vacations had just opened their national call center— their headquarters for 1-800 calls— and Nancy worked there for ten years. She and Dave enjoyed traveling to Europe, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean during this period. They moved to Fairhope in 2005 for Dave's new job in Mobile at Teledyne Continental Motors, a company that makes airplane engines.

For many years Nancy and Dave have been involved with Greyhound Pets of America,

which finds adoptive and foster homes for retired racing greyhounds. Greyhounds are wonderful pets— big dogs who don't live big, Nancy explains. They currently own no greyhounds but their menagerie of three dogs and two cats are all rescued animals, a pet owning policy they strongly endorse.

After her move to Fairhope, Nancy was amused when some friends asked, How are you liking it in the South? Well, replied Nancy, It's not like we needed a passport to get here. It's still America.

Until she resumes her professional career, Nancy's enjoying work as a docent at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and as a volunteer at the Alabama Sheriffs' Boys Ranch in Summerdale. Her travel on three continents will soon expand to four, as she and Dave leave September 28 for a few days in Brisbane, Australia, where in addition to Dave's professional work there they plan to visit the Great Barrier Reef.

— *Juanie Noland*

Note from Program Committee

The Program Committee always welcomes your ideas for Sunday morning speakers. Please provide potential speaker information to a member of the committee: Bert Brun, Dorothy Dowell, Harvey Joanning, Ed Lawrence, Prad Mathur, or Elaine Snyder-Conn.

Two Fellowship members have agreed to be available to give programs on short notice should a scheduled speaker not show. Our thanks to Harvey Joanning, who is prepared to speak on either *The World of Work* or *Alzheimers*, and Bud Gardner, who can speak on *The Four Domains of Truth*.

— *Elaine Snyder-Conn, Program Chair*

FUF Yard Sale Coming Up!

The fall yard sale will be held on Saturday, October 27, from 7 to 11 a.m. Sign up sheets will be provided over the next several Sundays. We need people to set up on Thursday and Friday mornings prior to the sale, sellers and watchers during the sale, and clean-up people after the sale. If you have items to bring, please bring them prior to sale day, either on a Sunday morning or the Thursday or Friday prior to sale. If your items are too big to carry in your car, please call me at 621-5416 and I will try to find a truck and some muscle.

Don't forget, this is a big money-maker for us, so let's make this the best one yet!



Mark Your Calendar

- Tue., Oct. 2:** Knitters' Group, 1-3 p.m.
- Tue., Oct. 2:** FUF Choir rehearsal, 3-4 p.m.
- Wed., Oct. 3:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.
- Thur., Oct. 4:** Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.
- Thur., Oct. 4:** Men's Harmony Chorus, 3 p.m.
- Thur., Oct. 4:** Thursday Night Colloquium on "Alternatives to Faith, Humanism", 7 p.m.
- Sat., Oct. 6:** Documentary, *The Road to Guantanamo*, 7 p.m.
- Tue., Oct. 9:** Knitters' Group, 1-3 p.m.
- Tue., Oct. 9:** FUF Choir rehearsal, 3-4 p.m.
- Wed., Oct. 10:** Birding field trip, 8 a.m.
- Wed., Oct. 10:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.
- Thur., Oct. 11:** Author Discussion Group, 9:30 a.m.
- Thur., Oct. 11:** Men's Harmony Chorus, 3 p.m.
- Thur., Oct. 11:** Thursday Night Colloquium, "Pantheism", 7-8:30 p.m.
- Sat., Oct. 13:** Game Night, 6:30-9 p.m.
- Sun., Oct. 14:** Social Action Committee, 12:15 p.m.
- Tue., Oct. 16:** Knitters' Group, 1-3 p.m.
- Tue., Oct. 16:** FUF Choir rehearsal, 3-4 p.m.
- Tue., Oct. 16:** Green Sanctuary Committee meets.
- Wed., Oct. 17:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.
- Thur., Oct. 18:** Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.
- Thur., Oct. 18:** Men's Harmony Chorus, 3 p.m.
- Thur., Oct. 18:** Thursday Night Colloquium, "Spirituality", 7-8:30 p.m.
- Sat., Oct. 20:** Entertainment movie, *The Russians Are Coming*, 7 p.m.
- Tue., Oct. 23:** Knitters' Group, 1-3 p.m.
- Tues., Oct. 23:** FUF Choir rehearsal, 3-4 p.m.
- Wed., Oct. 24:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.
- Thur., Oct. 25:** Men's Harmony Chorus, 3 p.m.
- Thur., Oct. 25:** Thursday Night Colloquium, "Realism", 7-8:30 p.m.
- Sat., Oct. 27:** FUF Yard Sale, 8-11 a.m.
- Sat., Oct. 27:** Game Night, 6:30-9 p.m.

Interesting Sites for Web Surfers

To 'tie a ribbon' in support of Planned Parenthood's new clinic in Aurora, Illinois: http://www.ppaction.org/campaign/aurora1?rk=a1_tOOM1WgaJW

R U A UU? Humanist? Perhaps Quaker or Neo-Pagan? To find out how your views match the world's major religions, take this quiz at BeliefNet: [http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/ieo/pdf/0484\(2007\).pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/ieo/pdf/0484(2007).pdf)

For knitters, here's an informational website with clear photos: <http://www.knittinghelp.com/>
Our own FUF website (thanks to EJ): <http://fairhopeuu.org>

Great radar view for Fairhope weather: <http://www.emergencyemail.org/weathergetWANG1.asp?asrc=&src=DS.p19r0/si.kmob>

And just for fun, a daily jigsaw puzzle: <http://www.jigzone.com/puzzles/daily-jigsaw>

– Gail Gardner

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

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