

October 2008



Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Oct. 5 THOM BOTSFORD : “Suffering: Two Views”

Two fascinating new books will be reviewed: God's Problem by Bart Ehrman and The Third Jesus by Deepak Chopra. They carry intriguing subtitles: "How the Bible Fails To Answer Our Most Important Question--"Why We Suffer" (Ehrman) and "The Christ We Cannot Ignore" (Chopra). Thom Botsford is head of the Department of English and Communications at Pensacola Junior College and an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola.

Introduction: TBA

Oct. 12 DR. LAL GOEL : “God Against the Gods”

Dr. Lal Goel, professor emeritus of political science at UWF, is a superb speaker on comparative religion. He comes from a Hindu background and presents that tradition with great effectiveness and sincerity. Today's presentation will contrast polytheism and monotheism outlining the degree to which fanaticism affects each.

Introduction: Elaine Snyder-Conn

Oct. 19 DR. ROMA HANKS : “Intergenerational Relationships in Families and Communities”

Dr. Hanks' research includes case studies of family/organization linkage. She has experience with design, execution and analysis of qualitative and quantitative research on work and family, grandparenting, caregiving, retirement, decision making and applied ethics. Her current research focuses on intergenerational relationships and program evaluation.

Introduction: Jule Moon

Oct. 26 NIKKI COX : “The ACLU's Current Cases in Alabama”

The fight for civil liberties is a continuing battle, especially here in Alabama. Nikki Cox, Development & Public Education Associate at the ACLU of Alabama, will discuss some of the organization's current and recent work, emphasizing legal cases and public outreach efforts. Highlights include the ACLU's efforts to bring racial justice to the education system, uphold the rights of immigrants, end the discriminatory treatment of HIV-positive prisoners, and restore the voting rights of felons.

Introduction: Flo Schneider

Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the October 26 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

FROM UUA.ORG - LET JUSTICE ROLL

UUA Joins Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign to Endorse "\$10 in 2010"

The Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign has launched the "\$10 in 2010" campaign to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10 an hour in 2010. Currently \$6.55/hour, the minimum wage is scheduled to rise again to \$7.25 in 2009. The "\$10 in 2010" campaign asks U.S. leaders of all faiths to endorse a letter that will be delivered to the new Congress in January to demonstrate support for a minimum wage that lifts people out of poverty, strengthens families and the economy.

In combination with the faith leaders letter, Let Justice Roll is inviting congregations and organizations to join in organizing a variety of "Living Wage Day" services & community events across the nation on Jan. 10 and 11, 2009. The letter being signed states, *"An adequate minimum wage is a bedrock moral value for our nation... For too long, the minimum wage has not provided even a minimally adequate standard of living. We experience the results in our communities. Across the U.S., a growing number of hardworking men and women are turning to our food banks, soup kitchens and homeless shelters to feed and house themselves and their children because their wages are too low... A job should keep you out of poverty, not keep you in it."*

UUA President William G. Sinkford has signed the letter and has asked that all UU ministers, religious professionals, and congregational leaders who believe that "Rewarding an honest day's labor with a just living wage is the right thing to do and advocating for fair compensation is our religious duty," join him by signing the letter. It is hoped that other congregational leaders will take action to work with other faith groups and promote the January 2009 events in cities around the U.S. In June 2008, the UUA General Assembly passed an Action regarding to \$10 in 2010, calling on UU congregational leaders to educate themselves about poverty and requirements for a minimum standard of living; to sign the Faith Leaders Letter to Congress, and to sponsor Living Wage Days. The Action states: *The current minimum wage is a poverty wage instead of an anti-poverty wage, the 2007 minimum wage increase was from \$5.15 to \$5.85 and the minimum wage is still worth less than in 1997, when it was \$6.95 in 2008 dollars... By the time the minimum wage reaches \$7.25 in 2009, it will not be worth much more than it was in 1997 & could be worth less if inflation rises more rapidly than the Congressional Budget Office forecasts.*

The UUA is a founding member of the Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign and advocacy for living wages is a top UUA public witness priority. Let Justice Roll led the successful effort in ten years to raise the federal minimum wage in 2007. The coalition also coordinated successful efforts in six states during the 2006 elections to raise state minimum wages, which included significant UU involvement. In addition, to the new federal campaign, Let Justice Roll is coordinating efforts to raise state minimum wages in GA, KS, and TN and to expand the categories of low-wage workers covered by minimum wage laws.

UU congregations are playing an active role in those campaigns as well. Rev. Gail Seavey, Senior Minister at the First UU Church of Nashville (FUUN), TN, writes, "[Our congregation] became involved with the *Community Coalition for a Living Wage*. After successful labor negotiations, the Coalition decided to form the *Interfaith Committee of Middle Tennessee Jobs with Justice*. We announced a city-wide living wage campaign with long range plans to organize a worker's center. FUUN has been successful at offering administrative support and fundraising for this new coalition and is particularly grateful for a grant from the UU Funding Program and assistance from the Let Justice Roll Program of the UUSC."

The UU Congregation of Atlanta (UUCA), GA, sponsored the 2008 Action of Immediate Witness for raising the federal minimum wage to \$10 in 2010. Barbara Burnham, Chair of UUCA's Racial and Ethnic Concerns Committee, said, "We have tied our work for just wages to our anti-racism work because a disproportionate number of people of color are low-wage workers. It is one of the ways that institutional racism operates in our society. It's important for people to understand that low-wage workers support many of us who have unearned privilege and that we can do something about that by working for higher wages and closing the enormous gap that exists between low-wage workers and CEOs." UUCA is a member of the Georgia Living Wage Coalition and has been at the center of efforts to raise the minimum wage in Georgia. They are also members of the national *Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign* which has partnered with state efforts.

Rev. Jim Eller, Minister of All Souls UU Church, Kansas City, Missouri, along with members of the congregation's core team, worked on the successful Kansas City, KS, campaign to raise the city minimum wage to the federal level, in coordination with other community organizations serving the region. Rev. Lisa Schwartz, minister of the UU Fellowship of Topeka, KS, along with others, are working with Raise the Wage, an ordinance to raise wages in Topeka similar to one promoted in Georgia.

Let Justice Roll campaigns are also underway in NJ, OH, and OK. To read the entire article or get more

MORE ON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

In the September FUF Newsletter our President Ruth Geraci listed volunteer opportunities available in our various committees. I would like to continue that discussion with a specific volunteer opportunity for a specific task.

Entertainment Movies For a year or two we had a movie series on the third Saturday of each month. (This was in addition to the documentary movie which is usually shown on the first Saturday of each month.) Wilma Albers handled this, and arranged for some great entertainment movies. Now we need someone else to take over this responsibility. Movies could be comedies, science fiction, opera, ballet, or anything except documentaries. You would get training on the use of the DVD projector, and volunteers can always be recruited to help put up or take down the screen, as needed. If you would be interested in taking over the opportunity for organizing the third Saturday entertainment movies, contact Ed Lawrence, 928-4646 or edfairhope@bellsouth.net.

-- Ed Lawrence

Author's Book Group

The group has selected the following authors for the next two months:

Oct. 9: Martin Cruz Smith, led by Joanne Rains

Nov. 13: Michelle Redmond, led by Pam Perkins

The Author's Book Group meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:30 am at the FUF. New members are always welcome.



WANTED: "GOOD STUFF"

The next FUF Yard Sale will be either Saturday, October 25 or November 1, 7am-12noon. Please contact Pam Perkins or Nancy Martin if you'd like to volunteer to help before or during the sale or if you have "good stuff" you'd like to donate to this successful ongoing fundraising effort.

UPCOMING ESILL COURSES

Two members of the FUF will be leading courses offered this fall through the Eastern Shore Institute for Lifelong Learning:

BIRDING-BEGINNER & INTERMEDIATE

Join us in learning to identify specific birds and enjoy the great outdoors. Start with an indoor class to cover some particulars about birds, their habitats and songs. Three scheduled field trips, follow, plus optional field trips depending on weather, migration and interest. A birding field guide and binoculars are helpful, not required. We arrange carpools and ask riders to share fuel costs.

Indoor class October 22 meets at 9:00 at the Fellowship. All field trips leave at 8:00 from Fellowship parking lot.

Tuition: \$63.00. Call 928-6526 or email Hindsite5@bellsouth.net to register. Space is limited.

Instructor Celeste Hinds is an avid birder and leads birding tours in Alabama and Texas.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANT ISSUES ON THE EASTERN SHORE

Damage to the environment and possibly related health concerns are always in the news. In a single session, you'll learn about key pollutants documented as present at elevated concentrations in the air, soil, sediment and water in the Fairhope area. We will cover many possible sources of contamination; the contaminants present in fish and shellfish taken from Mobile Bay and nearby rivers; information about pesticides, including termite and mosquito controls in use in the area; and some of the research projects underway. There will be a short discussion of risks and risk reduction methods. Bring your questions and leave with a greater understanding of the issues.

Saturday, Nov. 8, 10-noon

Tuition: \$9 Call 990-4751 to register

Elaine Snyder-Conn taught general biology, marine biology, invertebrate zoology, biological oceanography, and natural history at the college level; studied effects of metals, pesticides, and PCBs on fish and wildlife; and previously conducted research for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on oilfield, mining, military, and other

SCHUMANN MUSIC CLUB CONCERT SCHEDULED

The Schumann Music Club of Mobile will present a concert with the theme "Patriotism and Politics: 110 Years of Political Rally Songs" Sunday Oct. 5 at 2pm at the FUF. The Schumann Showcase Singers, composed of club members, will present choral renditions of the rally songs, some well-known, others not as well-known, and there will be solos by Melba Brown, Valerie Swingle Ellis, Kathleen Kennedy, and Mark Swingle. Well-known local historian and author, and club historian, Michael Thomason, has researched various aspects of presidential candidates through the years and narrate using his historical notes. Some of the songs on the program include "Get on the Raft with Taft", "We're Going to Celebrate the end of War in Ragtime", "Happy Days are Here Again", The Townsend Plan song, "I like Ike" (not the hurricane!), "Take a Chance on Me", etc. Some of the lyrics and issues in these older songs bear an uncanny similarity to present issues. Piano accompaniments will be provided by Baldwin, Charmein Moser, and Paulette Clark. Program leaders are Melba Brown and Charmein Moser. The Schumann Club, founded in 1894, is a member of the Alabama and National Federations of Music Clubs. The program is free and open to the public. For more info please call 661-0350 or 452-1121.

Mark Your Calendar



- Wed., Oct. 1 :** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm
Thu., Oct. 2 Nonfiction Book Group 930am
Sat., Oct. 4: Documentary Movie 7pm
Sun., Oct. 5: Schumann Club Concert 2pm
Tue., Oct. 7 Knitters' Group 130-330pm
Tue., Oct. 7 Choir rehearsal 330pm
Wed., Oct. 8 Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm
Thu., Oct. 9 Authors Discussion Group 930am
Sat., Oct. 11: Game Night 630-9pm
Tue., Oct. 14: Knitters' Group 130-330pm
Tue., Oct. 14: Choir rehearsal 330pm
Wed., Oct. 15: Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm
Thur., Oct. 16: Nonfiction Book Group 930am
Tue., Oct. 21: Knitters' Group 1:0-330pm
Tue., Oct. 21: Choir rehearsal 330pm
Wed., Oct. 22: Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm
Sat., Oct. 25: Game Night 630-9pm
Sun., Oct. 26: Last Sunday Potluck 12pm
Tue., Oct. 28: Knitters' Group 130-330pm
Tue., Oct. 28: Choir rehearsal 330pm
Wed., Oct. 29: Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm



DOCUMENTARY MOVIE NIGHT October 4 - 7:00 p.m. Subdivide and Conquer (1999 - 56 minutes)

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 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 life style requirement.

Free admission; contributions gladly accepted