

November 2006



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

JEAN LAWRENCE: "Art From the Heart"

Nov. 5

Art Committee Chair Jean Lawrence will speak about the emotional aspects of art, and will discuss the exhibited art that is on loan from members of the Fellowship. Each piece of art has special meaning to its owner.

Introduction: Pinky Bass

REV. HIRAM JOHNSON: "Tragic Redemption"

Nov. 12

Using Ephesians 1:7 as a scriptural base, Rev. Johnson will center his talk on a quotation from the brilliant French philosopher Simone Weil: "The extreme greatness of Christianity lies in the fact that it does not seek a supernatural remedy for suffering, but a supernatural use for it." The author of a book entitled "Tragic Redemption," Rev. Johnson is an ordained United Methodist minister, currently in private practice in Daphne. His talk is the second in our series on Religious and Philosophical Belief Systems.

Introduction: Wilma Albers

DENNIS DAY, PhD.: "Origins of Christian Iconography"

Nov. 19

In his presentation, Dr. Day will suggest how established Christian icons evolved from older pagan images. Educated as both a teacher and an Episcopalian minister, he divided his professional life between ministry as a parish priest and in education as a teacher, spending 25 years at Murphy High School in Mobile. In 2002, he and his wife, both retired, purchased a home in France, and spend time there and in Fairhope.

Introduction: Celeste Hinds

STANLEY HODGIN: "Confessions of an Agnostic Clergyman"

Nov. 26

"Confessions of an Agnostic Clergyman: A Lifelong Search for a Satisfying Faith," written by the Rev. E. Stanton Hodgin in 1948, will be the subject of this presentation. Rev. Hodgin, originally a Quaker, became a Unitarian minister at the age of 30. He avoided labeling himself a humanist but indicated that, over the course of a forty-year ministry, he had been on the naturalistic and humanistic side of theological issues. The speaker, Stanley Hodgin, is Stanton Hodgin's great nephew. He is a local musician and instrument maker.

Introduction: Ruth Geraci

Everyone is welcome 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, Youth Fellowship and Toddler Care, 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.

Art Reception, November 4

A repeat of our popular show "Art from the Heart" will be on exhibit during the months of November and December. There will be a reception for members, friends, and guests on Saturday, November 4th, from 3-5 pm. At the Fellowship.

This show celebrates those art works which we have in our homes, not done by ourselves, but which have special meaning for us. The painting or sculpture may serve to remind us of a special person who created the work, who gave us the art, or it may evoke memories of a loved one. The art might remind us of a special vacation, a previous residence, or a place we dream about. The art does not have to have a great deal of value to anyone but ourselves. It may very well be something that is considered "fine art," but is not necessarily so. More important in this case are the special feelings which are associated with the painting or sculpture

Each member or friend wishing to do so has lent us a piece, along with a short explanation of its personal importance.

On the following day, Sunday, November 5, Jean Lawrence will speak at our Sunday service about the emotional aspects of art, and will discuss some of the loaned art.

All those who loaned us their treasures are invited to attend the reception on November 4th. Other members, friends, and the public are, also welcome. As always, wine, soft drinks and light hors d'oeuvres will be served. The Fairhope Unitarian String Quartet will play for us. Come to see the art and stay for the music.

– *Jean Lawrence*

Schumann Club Presents Concert at FUF

The Schumann Music Club of Mobile will present **Americana, An Autumn Showcase** at the Fellowship on November 19, 3 p.m.

The concert includes The Star Spangled Banner, as told and sung by Scott Wright, music of Aaron Copland, instrumental music by 20th century American composers, The American Folk Song Suite, arranged by Luigi Zaninelli of the University of Southern Mississippi, and more. A reception will follow the concert. The public is welcome.

– *Patricia Keoughan*

Historical Christianity Discussion Series Continues November 30

As part of the Adult Religious Education program, the "Scholarly Perspectives on Historical Christianity" discussion series, presented by humanist minister E. J. Campfield, continues Thursday, November 30, from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Fellowship. Two topics will be discussed with a short break between them.

The first hour topic will be "Forging Christian Dogma." Biblical scholars now believe up to two-thirds of the books in the New Testament canon are forgeries -- several suspected as early as the second century. Modern textual analysis has exposed blatant manipulations and forgeries that shaped scripture to fit the dogmas of orthodox Christianity. As examples, we will look at suspect texts that marginalize women's roles in proto-Christian communities to pave the way for a celebrate clergy and male-dominated church authority.

"The Wives of the Apostles" will be the second hour topic. Did Jesus and his disciples have wives? We will discuss variant readings of scriptural texts and apocryphal gospels that make no secret of the truth about women in the earliest Jesus movements.

Participants should note that these discussions are historical-critical rather than faith-based. For further details, E. J. Campfield may be reached at (251) 929-1961.

Things to Do at the UU



Documentary Film November 4

The First Saturday Documentary for November 4 will be

Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers

The film starts at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship hall. The public is invited, and no admission is charged, but donations are accepted.

This documentary was directed by Robert Greenwald who also directed *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price*, *Outfoxed*, and other documentary movies. This 2006 movie takes you inside the lives of soldiers, truck drivers, widows and children who have been changed forever as a result of profiteering in the reconstruction of Iraq. It is the story of what happens to everyday Americans when corporations go to war. For more information go to <http://iraqforsale.org/>

– Ed Lawrence

December documentary: ***Green Plans***, Saturday, Dec. 2.



Calling All Singers

Have you been afraid to join the choir because:

you haven't sung since high school
you think your voice isn't strong
you can't read music
all of the above?

You are invited to learn to read music in a class that will begin in early November. Look for more information to come or call Kay Seymour at 625-0748 to express your interest. You may also call Heather Nutting at 990-0798 for a private evaluation of your voice.

– Heather Nutting

Author Discussion Group



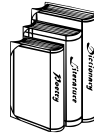
The Author Discussion Group selects one author whose works are read and discussed on the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Join us for stimulating conversations. Upcoming authors:

November 9: May Sarton

December 14: Al Gore & Michael Creighton

January 11: Bill Bryson

February 8: John Steinbeck



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.

All are welcome to join in the lively discussions and share favorite nonfiction

Fellowship Game Night Nov. 11

November's featured game will be Quiddler, "the short word game," fast paced and using everyday words. Other games will be available, including Scrabble, poker, bridge, and whatever anyone brings.

New players and new games are always welcome at our monthly get-together. Bring your own beverage, and a snack if you wish. A voluntary collection will be taken, in the form of a 50/50 raffle. Half the proceeds go to the Fellowship, the other half to a lucky ticket holder.

Join us starting at 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Saturday, November 11.

– Ruth Geraci

Anyone wanting a "War is Not the Answer" yard sign, call or email Flo Schneider--990-6242, or floschneider@mchsi.com

Minutes of the October Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 by Ed Lawrence, President. Other Board members present were Ruth Geraci, Jule Moon, Diane Ehlers, E.J. Campfield, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Wilma Albers, and Pam Perkins. Also present were Gail Gardner, Acting Treasurer, Michael Patrick, and Ann and Stu Chapman.

Financial report given; authorized purchase of locking file cabinet for financial records.

Last bank statement stolen from mailbox; we may install one that locks.

Receipts from the removal of the storm-damaged tree submitted to insurance agent.

We have received an anonymous donation of \$1,000 for a special project to be determined.

Ann and Stu reported on the Social Concerns Committee project working with the African-American community in Fairhope.

Sterling Bingham plans to produce an historical/educational documentary on Fairhope.

Ruth Geraci is finalizing the draft of the Building Usage Plan

Michael is finalizing the Long Range Plan to be published in the December newsletter.

Wildwood concert plans discussed.

Received donation of a 35" TV; need to purchase a sturdy cart from projector fund money.

The Religious Education Class will now be called Youth Fellowship Group.

Finalizing a brochure on the Fellowship.

Celeste will chair the resale shop in October.

Celeste will be sure new members receive UU World magazine.

Discussed the need for a deadbolt lock on the audiovisual closet.

Ed will email committee chairs about procedure for securing building after meetings.

Wilma went over the list of speakers she has lined up into 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10.

Pam Perkins, Recording Secretary

Emerson Study Group to Start in January

Ralph Waldo Emerson has been described as a religious seeker, as a Unitarian heretic-turned-saint, as a person seeking his true calling, as an archetypal individual, as a lover of nature, and as a visionary optimist.

While he lived and wrote in the nineteenth century, his ideas have relevance today.

An Emerson Study Group at the Fellowship will explore his life and read and discuss his writings, beginning in January 2007 for eight weeks. The primary text will be a Unitarian publication, "Emerson As Spiritual Guide," by Barry M. Andrews. Prior knowledge of Emerson is not needed.

The group will be limited to ten members, meeting under the auspices of the Religious Education Committee. Members will take turns facilitating the weekly discussions which will be held Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the R.E. Room.

If you are interested in participating in the Emerson Study Group, contact Ruth Geraci, e-mail ruthdow@gulftel.com.

More From October's Speakers

Two of the Fellowship's Sunday morning speakers in October maintain websites and/or blogs. (A blog is a personal website where entries are made in journal style and displayed in reverse chronological order. Readers may add their comments.)

Mary Lois Adshead's web address is www.findingfairhope.com. Her blog is www.findingafairhope.blogspot.com.

To reach Kristen Campbell's religion blog, go to <http://forthelove.blogs.al.com>

Social Action Committee Reports

The Social Concerns Committee is now the Social ACTION Committee, thanks to the approval of the Fellowship Executive Board. Though we are experiencing some delays in present projects, we will earmark 2007 to be a year of practical steps to make a difference in our community and thereby in our world.

As we enter the holiday season, I am drawn to the concept of "Guest At Your Table" which has been a continuing theme of the Unitarian Universalist Committee. This theme enfolds the warmth and hospitality we experience when we share ourselves with others.

The problem with 'projects' is they seem impersonal, so our task is to give an identity to and involvement with the person in the project, becoming aware as we do so that we are creating a ripple effect.

The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr. spoke of the accumulation of effects in his foreward to a book for the "Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign..."

"Such is the heart's logic and mandate that together we stand in the hour of need with compassionate care for those who cry out for help... In contrast, outpourings of compassion in high-visibility tragedies is the pattern of benign neglect, indifference or programmed unawareness of perilous problems all around us. Conditions we would consider intolerable if the consequences broke out in a flash of sudden mass destruction we tend to ignore when they occur in disaggregated tricklings of slow death here and there. The stroke or the heart attack we surely notice, but not necessarily the silent killers like blood pressure or the accumulation of plaque in the blood vessels..."

number of silent killers in global warming, corruption scandals and war. People in general care and WE care, but what can we do to create counter-trickle? The attempt of the Social Action Committee will be to identify the Guest at Our Table, so that we personally understand the societal problems our chosen guest faces. Helping that guest will help the society.

- Ann Chapman, for the Social Action Committee

New UU Principles Poster Available

Do you want a fun and attractive reminder of our Unitarian Universalist principles for your wall?

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLFUU) now offers a poster of the seven principles in lim erick form . It's a bright, colorful and clever poster. An example from it:

All plants, beasts and people belong

To a web that is silent but strong.

Every choice that you make

Leaves a trail in its wake,

So remember you're part of the throng.

The cost of \$10 includes postage, shipping and handling. To purchase a poster or learn more about the Church of the Larger Fellowship, go to their website at www.clfuu.org or call 617-948-6150.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is a UU congregation serving UU individuals and small groups all over the world.

Don't Miss This!**Stephen Foster Show Nov. 12**

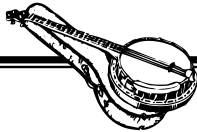
A special program is planned for our Fellowship Sunday, Nov. 12, 3-5 p.m.

“**Stephen Foster in Story and Song**” will be open to the public. The program will be narrated by historian Michael Patrick, PhD, and will feature music by Lock, Stock & Barrel, The Back Porch Folk Singers, and other musicians from our Fellowship.

Enjoy stories about Foster's life, as well as his songs, such as Oh! Susanna, Old Black Joe, Hard Times Come Again No More, Massa's in the Cold Ground, Old Dog Tray, Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair, and more.

There will be no admission fee, but a free will collection will be taken, with a suggested donation of \$5. which will go to the Fellowship.

Our musicians have worked hard to prepare for this program – come enjoy an afternoon of good music and stories. Bring friends!

**Join Our Thanksgiving Day Celebration**

The harvest will be in! Would you like to share the fall bounty in a Thanksgiving Day potluck at the Fellowship?

We plan to gather about 12:30 to be ready to eat soon after 1 p.m. All who wish to be included in this joyous gathering please call 929-0780 and talk with or leave word for Wilma Albers. Or, register your wish to come by email to: albersw@bellsouth.net

We'll consider menu and entertainment after we achieve a “critical mass” wishing to be part of the event. Please say how many will wish turkey and stuffing. Thank you.

– Wilma Albers

Mark Your Calendar

Thur., Nov. 2: Non-Fiction Group, 9:30 a.m.

Fri., Nov. 3: Fellowship Board, 9:30 a.m.

Sat., Nov. 4: Fellowship Art Reception, 3-5 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 4: Saturday Night Documentary, “*Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers*”, 7 p.m.

Tue., Nov. 7: Election Day.

Thur., Nov. 9: Author Discussion Group, 9:30 a.m.
Author: May Sarton.

Sat., Nov. 11: Fellowship Game Night, 6:30-9 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 12: “Stephen Foster in Story and Song”, 3-5 p.m.

Thur., Nov. 16: Non-Fiction Group, 9:30 a.m.

Thur., Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Dinner at the Fellowship, 12:30

Sun., Nov. 19: Schumann Club performance, 3 p.m.

Thur., Nov. 30: Christianity Discussion Series, 7-9 p.m.

Weekly Meetings

Tuesdays: Choir rehearsal, 3-4 p.m.

Wednesdays: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.

Fridays: Potluck Picnics at Fairhope Beach. Approximately 5:30 p.m.

NEWSLETTER

Submit calendar events or articles specific to the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship for publication one week prior to the last Sunday of each month. The newsletter is available for pick-up the last Sunday of each month at the Fellowship, before or after the service.

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:

ruthdow@gulftel.com

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