

December 2007



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

SISTER JUDITH SMITS: “The School of Assassins”

Dec. 2 *Sister Judith is currently director of The Quest for Social Justice, Inc. She states: “The U.S. Government operates its own terrorist training camp on the campus of Fort Benning in Columbus, GA. It used to be called the School of the Americas, but in 2001 the name was changed to Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. Its agenda to control the economic and political systems of Latin America remains the same.” Sister Judith will elaborate on this topic.*

Introduction: Bert Brun

GLEND A SLATER , P H Y L L I S P E C K , & P . T . P A U L : “Three Poets”

Dec. 9 *Glenda Slater, P.T. Paul and Phyllis Peck are Eastern Shore dwellers who have performed their poetry separately for years. This group of published poets was brought together through their participation in Pensters, a long-time local writers’ group. Their program will be a poetry potpourri, with selections ranging from the serious to the fun to the absurd.*

Introduction: Ann Chapman

RUTH GERACI, FELLOWSHIP PRESIDENT: “Annual Meeting”

Dec. 16 *The Fellowship’s annual meeting will include election of officers for 2008, and the 2008 budget as proposed by the Budget Committee and endorsed by the Board of Directors, will be presented and voted upon by members. Committee reports will be made as appropriate. Only Members of the Fellowship may vote; however, Friends are encouraged to attend and participate in discussion without voting.*

FELLOWSHIP MUSICIANS: “A Seasonal Celebration”

Dec. 23 *Performances by several Fellowship members and friends will help us celebrate the season. The festive program will conclude with a sing-along led by the Back Porch Folk Singers.*

Introduction: Dee Leff

GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE: “Conducting an

Dec. 30 **Environmental Audit of Your Home and Garden”**

Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the December 30 program. Please bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship and good conversations.

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.

Message from the President: What Will You Do This New Year?

A slate of candidates has been nominated, (*see page 3*) and elections for a new Board of Directors and Officers for our Fellowship will be held December 16. I would like to complete this year with a full roster of committee chairs and members. On Page 3 is the current list of chairs of each of our numerous committees. (It's a UU tradition to have many committees – it's what makes us successful!)

Please consider how YOU would like to be involved in 2008. My goal is to get every member and friend involved in a specific and appropriate task.

Also, if you are currently chairing or on a committee, but would like to change to another committee, now 's the time to speak up. Let's give our new Board the advantage of many committed supporters for our Fellowship in the coming year.

Here are details on some specific vacancies that need to be filled:

Fund Raising Committee: Celeste Hinds has led this work for many years and has asked to be relieved of chairing it. (Also, she is currently chairing the Lawn and Garden Committee, another big task!) Pam Perkins is a hard-working soldier in charge of Yard Sales who will help with fundraising work, but we need someone to step forward and take charge of fundraising in general, collecting ideas and recruiting help to implement ways to enhance our Fellowship finances. It's a team effort, but someone needs to lead. There is also the possibility of co-chairs, so you needn't go it alone!

Light Bulb Committee: George Hinds and friends provide assistance to Fellowship members in need, such as but not limited to changing light bulbs and replacing window screens. A few more able-bodied folks could help this committee with its outreach to those less able.

Social Action Committee: Ann Chapman has done a masterful job of leading interested participants through early efforts to provide meaningful ideas for our Fellowship's social action. She has asked to be relieved of this responsibility as of the first of the year. We need someone to now take Social Action to the next level – organize a formal committee of workers to research charities and projects, inform the Fellowship of these through newsletter articles, also organize and lead specific projects.

Membership Committee: Helen Earl agreed to lead this committee late this year. Now we need interested people to support her efforts in developing plans for making new members feel welcome, and in considering ways to reach out to the community to draw in more members.

Religious Education Committee: Robin Fabel graciously agreed to take on the chairmanship of this committee for a few months, but we need a permanent chair – someone who is interested in continuing to pursue the youth fellowship (Sunday morning) program as well as considering adult lifespan education activities such as discussion groups. We also need more members for this committee!

Newsletter Committee: I have edited the monthly newsletter for two years now, and I would like to put my energies elsewhere. Also, a change of editor would bring new ideas and viewpoints. Surely there is someone out there who has a PC and is computer literate, and who could spend a couple of days each month gathering, organizing and editing material for our FUF Newsletter. I would be happy to provide help as needed in getting the transition made. If you're interested in taking this on, even just for four to six months, please let me know.

In January a form will be distributed to members and friends for the purpose of indicating what each person is willing to do this year. Be thinking about it!

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship Committee Chairs as of the End of 2007

Contact the Committee Chair if you would like information about or are interested in becoming involved with a particular Fellowship Committee.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Art Committee: <u>Jean Lawrence</u> 2. Building Maintenance Coordinator: <u>Stuart Chapman</u> 3. Building Usage Coordinator: <u>Edith Hinrichs</u> 4. Caring & Concerns Committee: <u>Joyce Burkhart</u> 5. Chalice Lighters: <u>Ruth Pratt</u> 6. Finance / Budget Committee: <u>Jonathan Leff</u> 7. Fund Raising Committee: <i>vacant</i>; Pam Perkins (<i>yard sales subcommittee</i>) 8. Green Sanctuary Committee: <u>Debbie Jessup</u> 9. Historical Records: <u>Michael Patrick</u> 10. Hospitality Committee: <u>Jule Moon</u> 11. Light Bulb Committee: <u>George Hinds</u> 12. Lawn & Garden Committee: <u>Celeste Hinds</u> 13. Library: <u>Pam Perkins</u> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Membership Committee: <u>Helen Earl</u> 15. Memory / Honor Book: <u>Lisa Meyers</u> 16. Music Planning Committee: <u>Dee Leff</u> 17. Newsletter Committee: <u>Ruth Geraci</u> 18. Opening, Setting Up & Closing: <u>Frank Laraway</u> 19. Program Committee: <u>Elaine Snyder-Conn</u> 20. Publications: <u>Kristina Lindquist</u> 21. Publicity: <u>Diane Ehlers</u> 22. Readings: <u>Debbie Jessup</u> 23. Religious Education Committee: <i>vacant</i> 24. Saturday Evening Activities:
 Documentary Movies: <u>Ed Lawrence</u>;
 Entertainment Movies: <u>Wilma Albers</u>;
 Game Night: <u>Ruth Geraci</u> 25. Social Action Committee: <i>Vacant</i> 26. Spiritual Concerns Committee: <i>Vacant</i> 27. Sunday Bulletin: <u>Ruth Geraci</u> 28. Web Master: <u>E. J. Campfield</u> |
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Nominating Committee Announces Proposed Slate of Officers for 2008

The Fellowship's nominating committee has proposed the following slate of officers for 2008:

President: Ruth Geraci
Chairman of the Board: Ed Lawrence
Vice President: Terry Lindquist
Vice President in charge of Programs: Elaine Snyder-Conn
Treasurer: Kay Seymour
Recording Secretary: Bert Brun
Corresponding Secretary: Pam Perkins

According to the By-Laws of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship, election of officers shall be conducted during the annual business meeting of the Fellowship, the report of the nominating committee having been made at

least two weeks prior thereto. Nominations for any office may be made from the floor at the time of the election, however, intent to do so and consent of those to be nominated shall be made known to the presiding officer at least one week prior to the election so that a secret ballot may be arranged for positions for which two or more persons shall have been nominated. *Article VII Section 4*

Anyone interested in making a nomination is required to contact Fellowship President Ruth Geraci or a member of the nominating committee no later than December 9.

Jule Moon was appointed to chair the nominating committee this year. Other members of the committee are Michael Patrick and Juanie Nolan.

Your Social Action Committee Reports

Sunday, November 11 was the kick-off for this year's **GUEST AT YOUR TABLE**. We were pleased to see the amount of interest shown in the UUSC Christmas cards, and we'll be ordering more right away – on a consignment basis. Each week a committee member will remind members to pick up boxes and envision someone far away your family can make happy by daily donations, to be brought back here for a Sunday, January 9th celebration.

Donations to Ecumenical Ministries will be picked up, too, which we know this generous congregation will continue through the holidays. Our Fellowship has agreed to partner with the Eastern Shore Peace Network being revived by the daughters of Arden Flagg (the Network's founder). Arden's daughters, Holly Couret and Julie Pittman, have received permission from the Fairhope City Council to march in this year's Christmas Parade – that's on Friday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. We'd like as many people to participate as possible so that candlelight promoting peace will shine brilliantly. Just wear something warm and bring a lighted candle in a jar (settled in sand). You'll be notified where to congregate.

We were grateful for comments to the poll taken regarding priorities for FUF giving. Wisely, our people want to know more about charities soliciting funds, which we've started doing. And a tip to people wanting more information about the efficiency of organizations: you can log onto CharityNavigator.com.

The Interfaith Alliance

The Interfaith Alliance (TIA) is a proponent of faith as a source of healing in our society and an opponent of undermining the separation of church and state. Its motto is *One Nation, Many Faiths*. Their mission, according to their President, Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy of Monroe, LA, is to protect religious freedom for all Americans. TIA was founded in 1994 to challenge religious extremism in the political arena. Its primary objective is to ensure that

belief and practice are free and voluntary, and that the government does not favor or discriminate against citizens based on their religious belief or non-belief. Today it has 185,000 members and 75 local activist groups in the US.

TIA opposes the distribution of tax dollars to churches and other religious organizations (such as President Bush's Faith-Based Initiatives, or vouchers for private education), saying these practices endanger both the sanctity of religion and the integrity of government. Michael Patrick, a long-time supporter of TIA, says: The Interfaith Alliance is the most effective organization currently in existence to give people an understanding of social justice and a knowledge of people of all faiths, nationalities, and races.

Operation Smile

Because I have a grandson, now 13, who was born with a cleft palate and had two surgeries during the first year of his life (when I lived next door to him), I have a special place in my heart for these children born with holes in their faces.' And when I saw Operation Smile advertisements, I was interested enough to research their endeavor. Here's what I found out:

First, 100% of donations go toward programs. Operation Smile is the world's largest and most cost-effective cleft charity and meets extensive standards of America's most experienced charity evaluator.

More than 10,000 children per year are provided new faces' through O.S. international medical missions and in-country partners. O.S. also provides post-operative speech therapy and dental services, as well as full pediatric examinations for all children who come to them, not just those selected for surgery. Seven comprehensive care centers worldwide enable local Operation Smile partners to help children year-round. Financial reports and registration are provided on request. Co-founder and CEO is Bill Magee, D.D.S., M.D.

Packages for Soldiers to be Sent by
FUF Team



We all want the soldiers back on U.S. soil as soon as possible. No question about that – but it is our intention to let young men and women know we care about them. Opening a box of goodies might make some young person know he or she is appreciated.

Kris Lindquist, Nancy Martin and I are sending packages and invite Fellowship members and friends to participate by contributing items or helping with the cost of mailing. The post office furnishes boxes (slightly bigger than a shoebox) at no cost and we can pack them as full as possible and mail to individual soldiers for \$8.95 a box – regardless of weight.

For the next three Sundays, there will be a collection box in the lobby. Items needed are things you would take on a backpacking trip, including energy bars, nuts, gum, jerky, small soap and toothpaste, Wet-Wipes – even sox or jockey shorts. Late issues of Readers Digest, National Geographic and magazines with no religious or political writing are acceptable.

We are getting names and addresses from anysoldier.com but welcome any names and addresses you can furnish.

– Celeste Hinds

Invitation to March for Peace Dec. 7
in Fairhope Christmas Parade

On December 7 at 7 p.m. the Eastern Shore Peace Network (ESPN) and friends will walk in the Fairhope Christmas Parade with candles and a War is Not the Answer banner.

An open invitation to join ESPN activities is extended to all who feel that compassionate sharing and communication are needed to solve both personal and international problems, and that violence is not an effective or appropriate response. For more information, call Holly Couret at 928-1010.

Since the late 1970s the Eastern Shore Peace Network has organized activities to promote peace and social justice. Founded by Fairhope resident Arden Flagg and affiliated with the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, ESPN seeks to heighten awareness of issues primarily by public demonstrations of concern. These have traditionally included participation in the Fairhope Christmas parade, peace vigils at the Bay and in Mobile, and a boat float to commemorate events such as Hiroshima Day and the September 11 attacks.



Future of Transportation to be Discussed at Public Meetings

Citizens concerned with the future of transportation, including bicycle, pedestrian, and public transit, are urged to attend public meetings to help plan for the future of transportation in the Eastern Shore. The meetings will be held December 4 and 5 in Spanish Fort, Fairhope, and Daphne.

The Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Cities of Daphne, Fairhope and Spanish Fort, the Baldwin County Commission, and the business partners of *Blueprint for Tomorrow* has engaged

Partners to conduct a transportation feasibility study. As part of the study the firm will solicit public input as part of their information gathering effort.

The transportation items to be discussed for feedback at this meeting include the wide variety of types of transportation available and how the community would like to see these integrated into an overall transportation plan. Modes of transportation considered could include pedestrian, bicycle, vehicular, and public transit.

– continued on Page 8

At Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship, social action and concern takes many appropriate forms.

The Future of FUF Yard Sales

First of all, I want to thank everyone again for helping bring about another successful yard sale. Final tally was \$2,275.88. Not a bad haul.

There have been several suggestions as to how we can simplify our yard sales and make them less labor-intensive; everything from having them more often to having them less often. After much deliberation, I have devised the following plan:

I will clean out and organize the garden house.

- All FUF property will be stored on the left-hand side.

- All resale items will be priced and displayed on shelves and tables.

Members are welcome to drop off items on Sundays after services, as long as the **guidelines below are followed.**

Resale shop will be open from 12:15 to 12:30 p.m. I'll ask for volunteers to help.

Items will be inspected and either accepted or rejected by one or more of the yard sale committee members.

Members and Friends can shop on designated (to-be-determined) Sundays after services.

Cash and carry only; no more running tabs..

Furniture will be posted on a bulletin board to be offered internally; if it does not sell, we will try to bring it in for a public sale. Space is limited!

Sales to the public will be held whenever the committee feels we have enough unsold goods to warrant one.

No need for advertising; we'll simply put out our signs.

No need for the Fellowship Building; setting up and breaking down is just too much work.

I will keep track of the inventory and rotate out to local charities as needed.

- Pam Perkins

YARD SALE DONATION GUIDELINES

DO	DON'T
Do bring clean, intact <u>clothing</u> , clearly marked as to size (i.e., men's large, women's size 12), on hangers if possible.	Don't bring soiled, torn, or badly outdated clothing. Please, no used underwear.
Do bring clean, intact, usable <u>kitchen equipment</u> , dishes, cookware, etc.	Don't bring stained, chipped or cracked items or those with vital pieces missing. Please, no mugs with advertising or logos.
Do bring <u>electronics</u> in good working order.	Don't bring items that no longer work. Please, no obsolete computers or peripherals.
Do bring interesting or collectible <u>knickknacks</u> without major defects.	Don't bring C racker Jack box items that you got free somewhere. Please, no items with company logos.
Do bring clean <u>linens</u> -- kitchen, bed, bath-- intact, and marked as to size.	Don't bring items with permanent stains, rips, or worn places. Please, save your rags for your rag bag.
Do bring pictures or descriptions of furniture and other large items to post on a bulletin board.	Don't bring furniture without first getting permission. Since most items are sold internally, there's no point in moving things twice.
Do accept our decision to reject any items we feel will not sell. It's easier for you to take stuff to Goodwill or put out for the trash pickup than to pile it all on us to do.	Don't take it personally!



Third Saturday Entertainment Movie

The movie to be shown December 15 is **The Bells of St. Mary's**, a 1945 hit, the winner of Oscar and Golden Globe honors. Come enjoy 126 musical minutes. Bing Crosby, Ingrid Bergman and Henry Travers are the leads. Songs include "Aren't You Glad You're Young?"

– *Wilma Albers*

Non-Fiction Book Discussion Group Meets

New participants are always welcome at the Non-Fiction Book Discussion, which meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month starting at 9:30 a.m.

Authors Discussion Group Announces Selections for Winter Reading



The Authors Discussion Group, which meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m., has selected authors for winter reading:
Dec. 13 Mark Twain, discussion led by Jean Lawrence

Jan. 10: Chris Bohjalian, discussion led by Pam Perkins

Feb. 14: Maya Angelou, discussion led by Ruth Geraci

The group welcomes new members to its discussion, which starts at 9:30 a.m.

– *Diane Ehlers*

Green Sanctuary Committee Reports on 2007 Efforts

The Green Sanctuary Committee remains active and enthusiastic. We will be presenting a "sustainable living," program to the fellowship on December 30th. Thanks to Elaine Snyder's "power point" skills, we should have a polished performance.

In other news, we have worked closely with Ecumenical Ministries on our plan to landscape their new office and service center when it is finished, probably in late 2008. The plan will incorporate indigenous and other low-maintenance foliage, a butterfly garden, a picnic table, and— we hope— a pond with a solar fountain (dream?). We plan to coordinate our efforts with EMI and Master Gardeners to design and construct the garden as a refuge for the staff and their clients.

We have devoted all of our 2006 and 2007 budget to this project and plan to add \$400 of our 2008 budget as well. In addition to this already established plan, we voted at our October meeting to help EMI construct a "green" building. We will finance, through

exhaust fan and a solar water heater. In the latter case, our help would represent the difference between this and a normal water heater. We hope these contributions will provide EMI with savings and pleasure for many years to come.

We are an open committee who welcome new members with an interest in the environment, particularly that around the eastern shore. There's no need to have any particular expertise, only enthusiasm. Our members are Gail Gardner, Ed and Jean Lawrence, Pam Perkins, Bayne Snyder, and Elaine Snyder-Conn. We have as consulting members (or friends) Wendy Allen, Charlene Lee, and Fred and Carol-Lovell-Saas.

– *Debbie Jessup, Chair*

Fellowship Game Nights Dec. 8 and 22
Game Night is a great way to meet Fellowship members and friends – come join in the fun starting at 6:30 p.m.! We have a variety of board and card games, and new games are always welcome. New players are invited to learn a game or share one they

Pre-New Year's Eve Concert & Dance Party Sat., Dec. 29



Come listen, and dance if you wish, to the music you love: jazz standards from the 30's, 40's, and beyond.

Join us for the Fellowship's Fifth Saturday concert Dec. 29, 7:00 p.m., this time with a New Year's celebration twist. Music will be provided by Rodney Hoffman and A Touch of Jazz featuring vocalist Cathy Burmback.

A voluntary contribution will be collected at the door. Joyce Burkhart will once again favor us with her always-delicious hors d'oeuvres.

– Ed Lawrence

– *Transportation, continued from Page 5*

Gresham, Smith and Partners are tasked with determining what type of transportation plan, if any, the public would use and support, how the different modes of transportation would be integrated, and overall costs/expected revenues associated with the transportation plan.

The public is encouraged to attend and voice their opinion in order to ensure their views are heard as we plan our transportation future in a way that protects our communities' quality of life. The meetings are to be held:

Tuesday, **December 4**, 8 am, United Methodist Church's Paradise Center, **Spanish Fort**. The Center is at the intersection of U.S. Highway 31 (Spanish Fort Blvd.) and Highway 225 (Blakely Drive).

Tuesday, **December 4**, 6 pm, Good Samaritan Church, 7208 Twin Beech Road, **Fairhope**. From Greeno Road (Highway 98) just north of the Fairhope High School, turn west on Twin Beech Road (County Road 44). The church is on the south side of the street mid-way between Greeno Road and Section Street.

Wednesday **December 5**, 1:30 pm, Eastern Shore United Methodist Church, 6847 Park Road, **Daphne**. North of Wal-Mart on Hwy 98 in Daphne turn east into Park Rd.

For more information call the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce at 928-6387.

– Ed Lawrence

Mark Your Calendar

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

Tue., Dec. 4: FUF Choir rehearsal, 3-4 p.m.

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

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

Thur., Dec. 6: Men's Harmony Chorus, 3 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 7: FUF Board meeting, 9:30 a.m.

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

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

Tue., Dec. 11: FUF Choir rehearsal, 3-4 p.m.

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

Thur., Dec. 13: Authors Discussion Group, 9:30 a.m.

Thur., Dec. 13: Men's Harmony Chorus, 3 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 15: Movie Bells of St. Mary's, 7 p.m.

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

Tues., Dec. 18: FUF Choir rehearsal, 3-4 p.m.

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

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

Thur., Dec. 20: Men's Harmony Chorus, 3 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 22: Winter Solstice

Sat., Dec. 22: Game Night, 6:30-9 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 25: Christmas Dinner at FUF.

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

Sat., Dec. 29: Pre-New Year's Eve Concert & Dance Party, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 1: Happy New Year!

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

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