



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Dec. 7 FUF BOARD AND BUDGET COMMITTEE: FUF Annual Business Meeting

The Board will present the budget for the upcoming year, there will be time for questions and comments, and the election of new officers will be held.

Dec. 14 RICK ZAPATA: “Identity Theft”

In Alabama last year, more than \$21 million was lost to fraud and identity theft. Mr. Zapata is a regional extension agent at the Baldwin County Office, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, with degrees from Troy State and a background in several areas of business and finance. He will explain the course of action necessary for those already victimized, and also how to avoid becoming victims of identity theft and fraud in the first place.

Introduction: Ruth Geraci

Dec. 21 CHRISTMAS MUSIC PROGRAM : “Good King Wenceslas”

Written and directed by Fellowship member Julie Moon, the program is a lively retelling of the story of the good king and his faithful page as they struggle against cold weather to give alms to a poor peasant during the Feast of St. Stephen. The historical docudrama will be presented in musical Pantomime which is an art form originated in ancient Egypt. Musical accompaniment will be performed by Fellowship members Heather Nutting and Sarah Katz plus members of the Back Porch Folk Singers and the Choir.

Introduction: Ruth Geraci

Dec. 28 PHIL STRNISTE : “The Omnivore’s Dilemma”

The way we eat represents our most profound engagement with the natural world. In addition to reviewing what the omnivore's dilemma is, Fellowship member and local organic Community Supported Agriculture farmer Phil Strniste will sketch Pollan's use of it to explain the modern food industry, our national eating disorder, and why our relationship with the food we eat is important.

Introduction: Bayne Snyder

Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the December 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.

Children’s Fellowship each Sunday 11 a.m. -12 noon. Come join us!

Write 1150 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope, AL 36532. E-mail fairhopeunitarian@att.net

Visit our website at www.fairhopeuu.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER JESSIE ROSE

Jessie Rose has enjoyed many interesting career experiences, but perhaps none tops the time she climbed on the roof of the White House.

In 1979, during the Carter administration, Jessie worked in Washington in the Department of Interior. One day she was in the office of Carter's Chief of Environmental Policy, Stu Eisenstadt— with whom she worked— when he mentioned the new solar panel that Carter had recently installed on the White House roof. I'll show it to you, Eisenstadt offered, We can get to it from this office. Off they went, crawling through a bathroom window in Eisenstadt's office, then out on the White House roof. It was a real insider thing, Jessie recounts with a smile.

Jessie was born in Nebraska, but spent her early years in Kansas where she attended Wichita State University and Kansas State Teachers College, receiving an undergraduate degree in education and a master's degree in organizational communication.

After receiving her undergraduate degree, for about 15 years Jessie coached debate and taught speech in public high schools, at Purdue University and at the University of Oklahoma. With her artist husband, Jessie moved to New Mexico and lived for a time in Santa Fe and in Albuquerque. She taught at a Bureau of Indian Affairs junior college and administered a federal Title I grant designed to increase the frequency of interaction among faculty and students at the college.

After leaving New Mexico and teaching, Jessie entered the personnel and human resources field and in 1979 worked for a year in Washington, DC in a Department of Interior management training program. Her office was in the White House— the Old Executive Office Building. Part of her job included writing speeches for

After leaving Washington, Jessie moved to New Orleans and worked for the U.S. Geological Survey, Minerals Management Service (MMS) in employee relations and training. She retired in 2007.

Jessie was raised in a home with both Christian and Jewish influences— her father was Jewish, her mother Nazarene. Jessie characterizes herself as an independent. After moving to Fairhope and meeting fellow dog owner Jule Moon on their dog-walking outings in Homestead, she became interested in the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship.

Jessie moved to Fairhope after Katrina, then Gustav, severely damaged her New Orleans home. She enjoys Fairhope and thinks she'll stay.

She has two children, a daughter in Foley and a son in Jacksonville, North Carolina, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



Spike and Jessie

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

As outgoing president of this Fellowship, I want to thank every one of you who has made my job a pleasure. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to serve you these past two years. You welcomed me warmly four years ago, you allowed me to feel useful, needed, and appreciated, and you have provided me with encouragement, ideas, friendship and activity, as well as a feeling of having found a home. Most importantly, so many Members and Friends have been willing to step in when needed to support the officers, doing the jobs – both large and small – that ensure this

necessary financial support as well. Thank you all so very much.

You will be electing new officers this month and I know you will give them your support, as will I and other outgoing officers. We have something special here at Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship.

I once worked for a Naval Shipyard commander whose favorite saying was "When we work as a team, we're unbeatable!" How true.

– Submitted by Ruth Geraci

October 2008 Financial Statement

		YTD	Budgeted	Overage/ (Deficit)
	Oct	Thru 10/31	Thru 10/31	
BUDGETED RECEIPTS				
Contributions (unrestricted)	2,861	30,741	33,333	(2,592)
Other Receipts	1,487	3,738	5,000	(1,263)
TOTAL BUDGETED RECEIPTS	4,348	34,479	38,333	(3,855)
EXPENDITURES				
Building	1,429	19,347	21,083	1,738
Committees	957	7,459	11,833	4,375
Donations	100	3,264	5,417	2,153
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	2,486	30,068	38,333	8,265
NET BUDGETED INFLOW/ OUTFLOW	1,862	4,410	0	4,410
SPECIAL PROJECTS				
Contributions (special funds)	1,000	3,440		
Special Project Expenditures	1,842	9,716		
TOTAL SPECIAL PROJECTS	(842)	(6,276)		
INTEREST EARNED ON CD'S & MM		2,692		

– Submitted by Kay Seymour

KNITTING AWAY!

November's newsletter reported the Knitters' Group efforts had recently produced 56 various items of warm clothing to be sent to an orphanage in Afghanistan. The knitters are happy to report an additional 14 pairs of colorful mittens in various sizes have been completed and are being sent to the orphanage



as well.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE 2008 SUMMARY

This year we have been pleased to welcome nine new Members and six new Friends to our Fellowship. All of these new folks enrich our programs in a variety of ways, whether joining the choir, reestablishing the Children's Fellowship, participating in game night, joining a committee, or volunteering to help in some other way.

In late January the Membership Committee plans a two-week evening discussion group for recent new members as well as potential members. Participants will learn more about Unitarianism, how our Fellowship operates, and have a chance to share their thoughts, ideas and questions about becoming Members. Watch for an announcement of this program in the January newsletter. If you have ideas or want to help with this discussion group, contact Membership chair Ruth Geraci.

COFFEE PROGRAM 2008 SUMMARY

Participation of the FUF in the Interfaith Coffee Program run by Equal Exchange will mark its third anniversary this month. Over this time the sales of gourmet chocolate and coffee products have benefited not only the Fair Trade Farmers who grow the crops, but also our own Fellowship as well as the national service organization-the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). The popular coffee we are served every Sunday after the program is called Mind, Body and Soul and is a blend of beans from Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico.



Due to higher organic coffee and cocoa prices and other rising costs (falling US dollar, increasing fuels costs, etc.), Equal Exchange raised their prices in August of this year. Since my primary motivation in the selling of these goods is as a fundraiser for the Fellowship, I followed suit and raised the prices accordingly.

I determine the conferred benefit of the program by combining three factors: cash in-hand, value of unsold inventory and wholesale value of coffee donations to the FUF kitchen. As of November 21, 2008, with all expenses paid, I had \$391.57 cash in-hand, \$277.50 in unsold inventory and \$194.44 for the 31 pounds of coffee that have been donated to the kitchen over the course of 2008. That grand total or conferred benefit of the program is an impressive \$864.51!

Sales of the items has never been robust, yet I would say that there is a committed core of people who are willing to regularly support the program. For them and for all the Sunday coffee drinkers in the group, myself included, it is my pleasure to continue managing the program in the coming year.

- Submitted by Phil Strniste

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE 2008 SUMMARY

The membership of the committee was reduced to seven regulars: Bert Brun, Stewart and Ann Chapman, Flo Schneider, Jack and Vivian Gooding, Jeanine Norman. Terry Lindquist also attends frequently as an observer. At this time the committee continues to operate on a rotating chair basis.

The committee developed a simplified mission statement, basically stating that its prime function is to advise the Fellowship Board as to worthwhile organizations for the Fellowship to support. Also, the committee continues to recommend various opportunities for volunteerism. The committee continues to function as it has in previous years, for example for food collections delivered to Ecumenical Ministries, conducting the Guest at your Table monetary collections and sale of Christmas cards, the last two activities on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

The committee delivered a Sunday service on September 28 with a program outlining how and why we recommend to the Fellowship Board specific organizations to which contributions from the committee budget should be sent. It followed through on those recommendations by requesting the Treasurer to send donations to: Alabama Arise/Alabama Constitution reform, Aid to Inmate Mothers, Alabama Free Clinic, Lighthouse of Baldwin County, League of Women Voters, and Southern Poverty Law Center. Additional contributions were made to provide a nursing scholarship to a Faulkner college student, and a special donation to the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church hit by a gunman last summer.

Regarding its budget, the committee turned back \$1809 for Fellowship use in 2009. Next year there will be a different system -- instead of a set budget, the committee will make recommendations for individual contributions as the year progresses, to be voted upon by the Board and drawn from a special \$1000 fund.

The Social Action Committee continues to recommend and welcome members of the fellowship to attend its meetings, second Sunday of the month following services.

– Submitted by Bert Brun

ART COMMITTEE 2008 SUMMARY

The Art Committee has continued to have rotating shows of the work of members and visiting artists. Receptions are held on the first Saturday after the show has been hung. Live music, refreshments, and the featured artists make these festive occasions open to all.

Approximately half of the shows featured the work of visiting professional artists, and the others showed the work of members or their children and grandchildren. Some of the shows are very challenging to the viewer, and some are more comfortable or familiar. The committee plans to continue in this manner.

Most recently, we've begun to add trips to places which relate to art...the first of these, to Bellingrath Gardens, was a fundraiser for the fellowship. Projected trips in the near future include the Walter Andersen Museum in Ocean Springs and the Mobile Museum of Art.

--Submitted by Jean Lawrence

“Winter is an etching, spring a
watercolor, summer an oil painting and
autumn a mosaic of them all.”

--Stanley Horowitz



GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE 2008 SUMMARY

The Green Sanctuary Committee met approximately eight times during the year 2008. The members of the committee are: Chairman Deborah Jessup, Gail Gardner, Jean and Ed Lawrence, Nancy Martin, Pam Perkins, Elaine Snyder-Conn, and Bayne Snyder. Four friends of the committee are Wendy Allen, Charleen Lee and Captain Fred and Carol-Lovell-Saas.

The highlights of our activities included the following:

Designed, circulated, and interpreted a questionnaire soliciting congregational interest in a great number of potential projects our committee could pursue. The questionnaire also asked whether we should become a Green Sanctuary. A nearly unanimous majority voted yes.

Completed an environmental audit of our building and its grounds, which is the most important part of the application. We found little lacking in our carefully planned building, but noted that energy use is higher than it might be and proposed methods of reducing use, mostly through more rigorous monitoring of our thermostats. We've also mapped out the rest of the application, to include many of the projects (action items) listed in the survey.

Planned disposal of our \$500 budget: \$100 to Planned Parenthood, Inc., \$100 to the Nature Conservancy, and \$200 toward the purchase of low-energy fluorescent light bulbs for Ecumenical Ministries to distribute as it sees fit. Our intention is that the light-bulb gift will not only save energy for the agency's clients, but also encourage these clients to think green in other aspects of their lives. Finally, we agreed to return \$100 to the fellowship to cover budget shortfalls.

Following Board approval, disbursed the money as planned. The \$200 purchased 75 light bulbs. This is a project we plan to pursue on an ongoing basis, providing Ecumenical Ministries agrees.

Responding to interest shown on the survey and fund-raising imperatives, planned a boat trip up the Blakely River with a picnic in Blakely Park. The weather was perfect, the boat (provided by Debbie's friend, Paul Waite), was accommodating beyond expectations, and the birds flew in abundance for our pleasure. Gwen Snyder was our wildlife guide. Everyone had a great time in the great outdoors and we raised \$120 to cover part of our budget needs for next year.

We envision completing our Green Sanctuary application by early next year. However, we've heard there is a backlog at UU headquarters of some 70 applications, so are not anticipating a decision any time soon.

– Submitted by Debbie Jessup

EASTERN SHORE PEACE NETWORK TO PARTICIPATE IN FAIRHOPE CHRISTMAS PARADE

Since the late 1970's The Eastern Shore Peace Network (ESPN) has organized activities to promote peace and social justice. Founded by late Fairhope resident and long-time FUF member, Arden Flagg, ESPN seeks to heighten awareness of issues primarily by public demonstrations of concern. These have 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.

Choose Peace banner and candles in an effort to bring a message of social concern and spiritual awareness in the midst of the commercialized Christmas season. Anyone wanting to participate may do so by bringing a candle and joining the group anywhere along the parade route or at position #42 before the parade starts.

Please contact Holly Couret at 928-1010 for more information.

– Submitted by Holly Couret



MUSIC COMMITTEE 2008 SUMMARY



Among the Music Committee's several tasks is to facilitate rehearsals and performances of our Fellowship Choir which has now grown to 25 singers under the musical direction of Heather Nutting, with the support of our talented accompanist, Kay Seymour.

The Choir rehearses regularly on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30. The joy of the Choir is to achieve a high level of musicality – a goal that is made possible only by Heather's superb musicianship and ability to teach and draw from the Choir some surprisingly beautiful music in four-voice harmony.

Heather, of necessity, was away this year from June until mid November. But all was not lost.. we found that Ben DeVan, Musical Director at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Fairhope, was willing to continue rehearsing our Choir on Tuesday afternoons. So fortunately the Choir was able to remain in good voice during the months of Heather's absence.

Other tasks of the Music Committee are to find and schedule talented Members and Friends of the Fellowship to perform before the service and during the collection on Sundays, and to monitor our budgeted expenses, one of which is the care and periodic tuning of our beautiful Baldwin grand piano.

Members of the Music Committee are Pinky Bass, Diane Ehlers, Debbie Jessup, Sarah Katz, Dee Leff, Jule Moon, and Carol Newell. We have enjoyed working together for several years now and we think we have a real good thing going.

--Submitted by Dee Leff

TICKETS ON SALE DECEMBER 14 FOR DELICIOUS DINNERS!

Tuesday, January 27 – Sarah and Warren Katz will serve 8 guests Warren's favorite Kansas meal. Appetizers will include shrimp and salmon. Then comes the comfort food; Meat Loaf, Chef's Mashed Potatoes and Seasoned Green Beans. Home made Apple Pie a la mode for dessert. Warren grew up in NYC, but loves Sarah's great food.

Tuesday, February 3 - Celeste and George Hinds' home will be filled with the aroma of Spicy Indian Chicken, Marinated Vegetables and an array of Desserts. Limit 10 guests

Tuesday, February 17 - Wilma and Henry Albers will serve Honey Baked Ham and the trimmings. You won't be able to resist the dessert. Limit 6 guests. Will Henry's flowers be in bloom?

Saturday, February 21- Pinky Bass will whip up authentic Mexican street food to include Antojitos, Enchiladas, Chilaquiles – five or six different things for you to taste and choose. Her house is her art museum! If you have not been there, now is your chance. Limit 8 guests.

Tuesday, February 24 - Edith Hinrichs and Aaron Hinrichs will prepare a classic Jewish meal of Chicken Soup with Matzoh Balls, Broiled Chicken with Potato Pancakes, Applesauce, Green Beans and probably Blintzes with Sour Crème and Challah. Where else on the Eastern Shore could you find a menu like theirs? Limit 8 guests.

Sunday, March 8 – Eight lucky guests will feast on **Carolyn Garbett's** Sage Crusted Pork Tenderloin and Mashed Root Vegetables, with her famous Chocolate Cake and Raspberry Sorbet. Come early if you want to see the goats!

Tuesday, March 24 - Rose Marie Morgan and Forrest Worrall's elegant table is so pretty the food won't matter, but I'm sure you won't be disappointed. Come early to see their border collie and for a tour of their garden. Limit 10 guests.

Tickets go on sale at the Fellowship on December 14 and are \$25 each. Make your reservations with Gail Gardner in the lobby. All dinners are at 6:00 p.m with all proceeds going to the Fairhope Unitarian budget. Limit two tickets per person until January 11.

– Submitted by Celeste Hinds

FIRST SATURDAY DOCUMENTARY MOVIES



December 6 - 7:00 p.m.: *Occupation 101: Voices of the Silenced Majority* (2007, 90 minutes) A film on the current and historical root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It details life under Israeli military rule, the role of the US in the conflict, and the major obstacles which stand in the way of a lasting and viable peace.

January 3 - 7:00 p.m.: *A Crude Awakening – The Oil Crash* (2006, 85 minutes)

This movie demonstrates that the era of cheap oil is over. It looks at the realities of a world that is both addicted to fossil fuels and blissfully unaware of the looming peak oil crisis. The movie offers hope, however, hinting at a humbler way of life built around sustainability and alternative energy.

Movies are open to the public; free admission, contributions are gladly accepted.

– Submitted by Ed Lawrence

BOOK GROUP MEETINGS

The Authors Discussion Group meets the second Thursday of each month at 930am. The December 11 meeting will be Reader's Choice. Bring a book you'd like to share along with ideas for future author discussions.

The Non-Fiction Book Discussion group meets at 930am the first and third Thursdays each month. Bring your favorite non-fiction book to share.

Both groups meet in the Fellowship library. Visitors and new members are always welcome.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tue., Dec. 2: Knitters' Group 130-330pm

Tues., Dec. 2: Choir rehearsal 330pm

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

Thu., Dec. 4: Nonfiction Book Group 930am

Sat., Dec. 6: First Saturday Movie 7pm

Tue., Dec. 9: Knitters' Group 1-330pm

Tues., Dec. 9: Choir rehearsal 330pm

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

Thu., Dec. 11: Authors Discussion Group 930am

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

Tue., Dec. 16: Knitters' Group 1-330pm

Tues., Dec. 16: Choir rehearsal 330pm

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

Thu., Dec. 18: Nonfiction Book Group 930am

Sun., Dec. 21: January newsletter deadline 5pm

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

Tues., Dec. 23: Choir rehearsal 330pm

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

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

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

NEWSLETTER

Submit calendar events or articles specific to the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship for publication one week prior to the last Sunday of each month as noted in the newsletter calendar section. 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 as space allows.

Provide written copy or email to editor at:

nanpie@juno.com

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