

June 2006



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

HENRY ALBERS: “News from the Sky Part II”

June 4 *Henry Albers, an enthusiastic and entertaining member of the Fellowship, has been requested to give a follow-up to his presentation of April 9. Dr. Albers spent over three decades teaching and doing research in observational astronomy. He has taught courses in Fairhope at the Eastern Shore Institute for Lifelong Learning (ESILL).*

Introduction: George Hinds

JAMES E. KENNEDY: “Everything You’ve Always Wanted to Know about African American Art But Didn’t Know You Wanted to Know It”

June 11 *Professor Emeritus of Art at the University of Southern Alabama James Kennedy will provide a short illustrated history of the Afro-American artist and his motivation. An artist himself, Professor Kennedy’s works have been widely exhibited, received numerous awards, and been purchased for collections.*

Introduction: Terry Lindquist

MICHAEL PATRICK: “Juneteenth Celebration”

June 18 *Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. The Fellowship celebration will involve an art exhibit by Keith Conaway, a well-known self-taught black artist from Missouri who will be present to discuss his art. The music of Cecil Williams, the cowboy-poet and songwriter from Oklahoma, will be presented by Unitarian Singers. Fellowship member Michael Patrick collaborated with Conaway and Williams in writing his best-selling book **The Black West in Story and Song**. He will describe the historical impact of black explorers, cowboys, soldiers, ranchers and homesteaders in settling the West.*

Introduction: Pat Laraway

HEATHER CUNNINGHAM & REBECCA BYRNE: “Progress Through Fairhope Philanthropy”

June 25 *Public relations consultant Heather Cunningham is Executive Director of the Fairhope Educational Enrichment Foundation (FEEF). She will discuss FEEF’s history, mission, signature events, Educational Excellence, and Classroom Grants programs. Commercial real estate agent Rebecca Byrne chairs the Fairhope Center for the Arts Board of Directors. She will describe plans for the Fairhope Center for the Arts which will be built on the campus of Fairhope High School.*

Introduction: Emily Davis

The Fourth Sunday potluck will follow the program. Please bring a dish to share.

Sunday Service, Religious Education Classes 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

Saturday Evening Movies

Saturday evening movies are currently held twice a month at the Fellowship building. There's no charge for admission but contributions are accepted. Movies for June are as follows:

Saturday, June 3 at 7 p.m.

"Invisible Ballots."

Governments are installing computerized voting systems with no paper record to verify accuracy. Elections will be controlled by companies that do not allow voters to inspect their software. If vote counting becomes privatized, there may be no way to get it back.

Saturday, June 10 at 7 p.m.

"Kilowatt Ours."

This film discusses what we can do to reduce energy consumption, and what we can do to promote the use of renewable energy.

Ed Lawrence

Note of Thanks

I want to express my gratitude to the many, many talented musicians who participated in the memorial service for Carl. It was a beautiful tribute. Thank you, also, to everyone who has been so helpful and supportive during this difficult time.

Edith Hinrichs

Where's My Newsletter?

As a cost-saving measure, the Fairhope Unitarian Newsletter is now being mailed only to those Members and Friends for whom we do not have email addresses and who do not pick it up by the second Sunday of the month. Please pick up your newsletter, generally on the last Sunday of the month, at the Fellowship, or view the Newsletter at the Fellowship's website:

www.fairhopeuu.org

Carl Mersereau Hinrichs

1932-2006

Fellowship member Carl Hinrichs of Fairhope died April 30, 2006. He was born in Scarsdale, NY, and had also resided in Manhattan, Kansas for many years.

Carl attended NC State University, served in the U.S. Army, and received his Masters in Theatre from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His professional career included playwriting, theatrical set design, and 40 years of teaching at the college level.

After retiring as Professor Emeritus in 2000, Carl returned to his first love, music. He played piano, hammered dulcimer, and mountain dulcimer, composed music, began building dulcimers, and sang with the Fellowship choir as well as with the Coastal Chorale. Our choir sorely misses his beautiful bass voice joyfully resounding in song.

Carl is survived by his wife of 52 years, Edith, and son Aaron, both members of our Fellowship; also sons Raymond and Steven; daughter Lydia; four grandchildren; and his brother Robert.

Arden Flagg

1917-2006

A memorial service was held on May 15 at the Fellowship for Arden Flagg of Fairhope, who died this month after an extended illness.

Arden served as President of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship in 1981 and 1982, and again in 1989 and 1990.

She was active in the peace movement both on the Eastern Shore and at the national level. Every year Arden joined many others from the Unitarian Fellowship in marching with the Eastern Shore Peace Network in the annual Fairhope Christmas Parade.

Final Results of the Fellowship Planning Questionnaire

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A total of 45 responses to the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship Long Range Planning Questionnaire were received: 37 from members, 6 from friends, and 2 from people not indicating whether member or friend. Here is a summary tabulation of the results, compiled in April, 2006.

1. Association with the Fellowship:

Half the respondents indicated they attended regularly (51%), and supported the Fellowship financially (49%), and 40% indicated they contributed time and effort.

2. The activities that most respondents participated in regularly were:

- ? Coffee Hour, 67%
- ? 4th Sunday Potluck, 56%
- ? Receptions, Social Occasions, 51%
- ? Fund-raising Activities, 49%
- ? Saturday Evening Movies, 49%
- ? Music Programs, 42%
- ? Picnics, 38%
- ? Discussion Groups, 24%

- ? 3. Religious & Spiritual Beliefs:
- ? Humanism, 44%
- ? Atheism, 27%
- ? Ethical Christianity / Christian Theism, 22%
- ? Agnosticism, 18%
- ? Spirituality / Earth-Centered Spirituality, 19%
- ? Buddhism, 7%
- ? Also mentioned were: Hinduism, Judaism, Deism, "open-minded", and don't know.

4. What attracts you to Fellowship?

- ? Intellectual Stimulation, 87%
- ? UU principles and values, 73%
- ? Our Sense of Community, 71%
- ? Our common values & interests, 69%
- ? Opportunities to Discuss & Learn, 60%
- ? Social Programs, 49%
- ? Music Programs, 49%
- ? Involvement in Social Issues, 38%
- ? Need for Affiliation with a Church, 22%
- ? Spiritual Growth, 16%
- ? Religious Education for Children, 9%

5. For which of the following would you increase your contributions?

- ? Advocacy for Social Issues, 44%
- ? Building Enlargement or Expansion, 31%
- ? Speakers Program, 22%
- ? Increasing Financial Reserves, 22%
- ? Music Program, 20%
- ? Grounds Improvements, 18%
- ? None Checked, 18%
- ? Salary for a Minister, 16%
- ? Charities, 16%
- ? Social & Entertainment Programs, 11%
- ? Children's Programs, 11%
- ? Equipment & Supplies, 11%
- ? Support National & Regional UU: 9%
- ? Eleven respondents recommended \$0 as salary for a minister. Others recommended: \$3,600; "whatever is needed"; \$15,000; \$12,000-\$15,000 part time.

Results Continued on Page 4.

4 *Results of Fellowship Planning Questionnaire continued from Page 3*

6. Should the Fellowship initiate an annual membership pledge?

- ? Yes, 22%
- ? No: 62%
- ? No response checked: 16%

7. For which would you contribute your time and effort?

- ? Sunday Service Reading, Chalice Lighting, etc., 40%
- ? Fund Raising Programs, 36%
- ? Social & Entertainment Programs, 36%
- ? Music Programs, 33%
- ? Social Issues & Involvements, 33%
- ? Grounds Maintenance, 31%
- ? Caring & Concerns, 22%
- ? Speakers' Program, 20%
- ? Charities, 20%
- ? Serving as an Officer, 16%
- ? Kitchen Duties, 16%
- ? Evening Social Programs, 16%
- ? Building Maintenance, 13%
- ? Spiritual Programs, 13%
- ? Publications & Communications, 11%
- ? Adult Education Programs, 9%

8. In which discussion groups would you consider participating?

- ? Current Social Issues, 49%
- ? Humanism, 47%
- ? Books, 42%
- ? World Religions, 27%
- ? Science, technology & religion, 24%
- ? Bible History, 20%
- ? Spirituality, 18%
- ? Personal Adjustment, Well-being, 18%
- ? Family Relationships, 13%
- ? Human Sexuality, 9%

9. What are the inadequacies of our current building?

- ? Need larger general purpose room / library, 27%
- ? Acoustics / Sound System, 18%
- ? Building is Fine, 13%
- ? Not Big Enough; Classroom too Small; Need Larger Lobby; Larger Kitchen; Storage, 13%

10: What do you think our long-term goals for the Fellowship should include?

- ? More Younger Members, 16%
- ? Addition to Building, 13%
- ? More Active Involvement in the Community, 13%
- ? More Personal, Spiritual Content, 11%
- ? Increase the Membership, 9%
- ? Engage more Members & Friends to Participate, 7%

Words to Think About

“Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.”

From The Principles of the Unitarian
Universalist Association



Report of the 2006 Mid-South Regional Unitarian Universalist Confer-

I had the pleasure of representing the Fairhope UU Fellowship at the Mid-South regional conference in Atlanta in April.

The conference started with the Service of the Lively Tradition on Friday night in which each official delegate rose and gave the "good news" from their corner. I reported that we are over two years in our new facility, debt free, and were doing a long range plan to guide the Fellowship in the future. Many of the delegates reported growth in their fellowships this past year especially in the youth groups.

The keynote speaker was Janisse Ray, an author and activist for the earth. She has led a campaign to stop strip mining in West Virginia and has written books on living a sustainable life. Her poetry on the environment was very powerful and moving.

The workshop on Saturday focused on "best practices" in UU worship services. Rev. Kathleen Rolenz gave examples of both good

and bad practices. The bottom line was that the Sunday morning service should be about worship — celebration of the spirit. All the

elements- the reading, congregational singing, meditation, and spiritual message- should be coherent in that intent.

The afternoon session was a panel of UU ministers who discussed a nationwide survey commissioned by the UU General Assembly which also looked at ways to improve the worship service. The item most mentioned was the "joys and concerns candle" as being both one of the most meaningful items and one of the biggest distractions in a service. The delegates agreed that more discussion was needed on this item.

Janine and I attended the regular service on Sunday morning which featured an African drum ensemble, lively congregational singing and an inspiring message from Rev. Rolenz.

—John Raby

What is Genuine Happiness?

“Consider the following: We humans are social beings. We come into the world as a result of others’ actions. We survive here in dependence on others. Whether we like it or not, there is hardly a moment of our lives when we do not benefit from others’ activities. For this reason it is hardly surprising that most of our happiness arises in the context of our relationships with others.

Nor is it so remarkable that our greatest joy should come when we are motivated by concern for others. But that is not all. We find that not only do altruistic actions bring about Happiness but they also lessen our experience of suffering. Here I am not suggesting that the individual whose actions are motivated by the wish to bring others happiness necessarily meets with less misfortune than the one who does not. Sickness, old age, mishaps of one sort or another are the same for us all. But the

sufferings that undermine our internal peace — anxiety, doubt, disappointment — these things are definitely less. In our concern for others, we worry less about ourselves. When we worry less about ourselves an experience of our own suffering is less intense.

What does this tell us? Firstly, because our every action has a universal dimension, a potential impact on others’ happiness, ethics are necessary as a means to ensure that we do not harm others.

Secondly, it tells us that genuine happiness consists in those spiritual qualities of love, compassion, patience, tolerance and forgiveness and so on. For it is these which provide both for our happiness and others’ happiness.”

*From “Ethics for a New Millennium”
by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama*



The Fellowship Book Group selects one author whose works are read and discussed on the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Upcoming authors are:

June 8: Joanna Trollop

July 13: Anita Shreve

August 10: A.N. Wilson

September 14: Walker Percy

Sunday Evening Spiritual Gathering

The results of our recent Fellowship survey showed that roughly 65% of our members identified their religious perspectives as Humanist, Atheist, or Agnostic, while roughly 30% considered themselves spiritually-oriented, including Christian, Earth-Centered Spirituality and Buddhist.

To better meet the needs of the 30%, the Spiritual Concerns Committee will be offering heart-centered, spiritual gatherings with related programs on Sunday evenings, at 5:00. The group is tentatively being called the Spiritual Gathering at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship.

A planning meeting for all interested parties is scheduled for Sunday, June 4 in the Fellowship building.

Terri Campfield, who chairs our Spiritual Concerns Committee, encourages anyone who's interested in spiritual content to attend the June 4 meeting, which will serve as a brainstorming session to share ideas for programs, speakers, events, meditations, celebrations, ceremonies, community outreach and other activities.

If you are interested but cannot attend the meeting, please call Terri Campfield, 928-4783, to express your interest and sign up for future meetings.

Mark Your June Calendar

Thur., Jun 1: Scholarly Perspectives on Historical Christianity discussion series: "Gospel of Judas". 7 p.m.

Fri., Jun 2: Board Meeting. 9:30 a.m.

Sat., Jun 3: Saturday Evening Movies, "Invisible Ballots". 7 p.m.

Sun., Jun 4: Spiritual Gathering, 5:00 p.m.

Thur., Jun 8: Book Discussion Group. Author: Joanna Trollop. 9:30 a.m.

Sat., Jun 10: Saturday Evening Movies, "Kilowatt Ours". 7 p.m.

Regular Weekly Meetings:

Wednesdays: Back Porch Folk Singers. 3 p.m.

Welcome Our New Members

Henry and Jill Teumer recently signed as Members of our Fellowship.

Henry is originally from East Germany, but he and his wife Jill came here to the Fairhope area in 1967 by way of Green Bay, Wisconsin. They have been in business here for over 20 years, owning and operating Hy Grade Valve on Highway 98.

They were drawn to our Fellowship by the newspaper articles about our programs.

Please introduce yourselves to Henry and Jill and get to know them.

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:

ruthdow@gulftel.com

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Albritton