

WILLIAM M. “BUD” GARDNER: “Is America Going South?”

Aug.6 *Of the four cultural and geographic regions of the U.S.—Northeast, Midwest, West and South—none is more self-conscious and stereotyped than the South. Now it's time to replace regional prejudices and insecurities with a factual understanding of regional differences in population, politics, and economics. A native of Alabama, Fellowship Member Bud Gardner holds a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from the University of Alabama. He writes on a variety of topics from automotive history to philosophy.*

Introduction: Ed Lee

Greeter: volunteer needed

Cookies: Diane Ehlers & Ruth Geraci

TOM GARBETT: In Memoriam: “An Old, Old Story ”

Aug.13 *Based upon a reading of Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s poem **The Rime of the Ancient Mariner**, this will be a repeat of a presentation originally made over 25 years ago by a beloved Member of our Fellowship, John Coutant, who died in 2004. Tom Garbett, a friend of John’s as well as the Unitarians’, will present it along with some comments of his own.*

Introduction: Rennick Marsh

Greeter: Jule Moon

Cookies: Juanie Noland

TERRI CAMPFIELD: “Standing on the Side of Love: Freedom to Marry for All People”

Aug.20 *The Unitarian Universalist Association stands in unwavering support of same-sex marriage, lobbying tirelessly to defeat the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment. Terri Campfield is a wedding officiant who has performed more than 100 commitment ceremonies for same sex couples during the last ten years. She will present an overview of political views on the subject worldwide, along with vignettes of some of the extraordinary couples for whom she's performed ceremonies.*

Introduction: Wilma Albers

Greeter: Edith Hinrichs

Cookies: Dorothy Dowell

PHYLLIS SPRINGEN: “Katherine McCormick: Early Suffragette”

Aug.27 *Katherine Dexter McCormick (1874-1967) fought for the women’s vote, helped form the League of Women Voters, and struggled to obtain birth control for women. The topic is a timely one in an era when women’s rights are being eroded around the globe. Phyllis Springen is past president of the League of Women Voters of Baldwin County, She deplores feminists who try to punish males and believes in equal rights for both males and females.*

Introduction: Flo Schneider

Greeter: volunteer needed

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

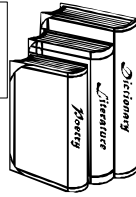
Sunday Service, Religious Education Classes and Toddler Care, 11 a.m., 1150 Fairhope Ave.

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.

Book Discussion Group



The Fellowship Book 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:

August 10: A.N. Wilson

September 14: Walker Percy

October 12: Gustave Flaubert

November 9: Al Gore & Michael Creighton

December 14: May Sarton



Nonfiction Book Review Group

There's a new book group at the Fellowship. The Nonfiction Book Review Group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Office. The founders of this group have designed it to be as informal and undemanding as possible. Participants do not give book reports per se; everyone is given an opportunity to mention nonfiction books they are reading if they wish, or they may pass and just listen.

"Then we attempt to discuss the books in the order mentioned," says participant Charley Earl. Generally, fact-based literature is to be considered as nonfiction. However, a pertinent comment was made that a book such as "Killer Angels" was considered as nonfiction at West Point Military Academy.

"We will undoubtedly discuss books on such topics as the environment, healthcare, evolution vs. creationism, history, politics, foreign policy, the sciences and major issues facing the world, among other topics," Charley says. "And then, hopefully, we will go to lunch afterward!"

Come join in the lively discussions and share your favorite nonfiction books.

In Memory

The passing of Mike Nevins, a member of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship since 1987, was recently honored with the lighting of our memorial chalice.

Mike was a very artistic person, with beautiful, strong taste. She made lovely jewelry. She loved to go to New York City to visit the museums and galleries while visiting her daughter Megan. Mike was a fixture at the University of Southern Alabama Friday night movies, collecting the money and always sitting up front.

A longtime peace activist, Mike was also involved in the League of Women Voters.

Mike was a great friend of Jinx Bachtell for thirty years. Jinx said that Mike was a person she could always count on and with whom she shared great times and many laughs.

Just a few months ago, as her health failed, she left Fairhope to live near her daughter. Upon her death last month, she was cremated and her ashes buried in Clinton, Connecticut, in an old family cemetery. Her extended family attended the memorial service.

Many of us will remember Mike, and to help us not to forget, a painting which she donated to the Fellowship now hangs in the meeting hall in her memory.

Jean Lawrence

Rosters and Name Tags

Henry Albers is the keeper of the Fellowship official roster. If you need a copy ask him to email it to you; if you don't have email, he will be happy to supply a printed copy. Let him know about changes of address.

Ed Lee is in charge of name tags, those oh-so-necessary necklaces that augment our memory of who we are and help newcomers get to know us. Speak to Ed if you need a new name tag.

Documentary Film August 12



The Saturday Night Club at the Fellowship will present on Saturday, August 12 at 7 p.m.:

“Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch’s War on Journalism” (2004, 77 minutes)

This documentary examines how media empires have been running a “race to the bottom” in television news, and the dangers of ever-enlarging corporations taking control of the public’s right to know.

Coming up September 2, *“Taken for a Ride”* will examine why the United States has the worst public transit in the industrialized world, and the most freeways.

—Ed Lawrence

First Game Night: “And a Good Time Was Had By All!”

The Fellowship’s first Game Night won’t be its last. Despite a number of interested members and friends being out of town, a strong turnout ensured a good time on Saturday, July 8. Canasta, Scrabble, Mah Jongg, and a lively poker game held the attention of about 20 people, and a fifty/fifty raffle netted a modest contribution to the Fellowship treasury while Henry Albers took home the prize.

Thanks to all the people who pitched in to set up and clean up. We now know the Fellowship has a number of card tables on hand!

Game Night will resume on **the second Saturday in September**. Participants are looking for a couple of bridge players, a few souls who want to play Rook®, and a group of folks to play Scattergories®, a fast-paced word game (no previous experience necessary). Other games will be available as well, and you are welcome to bring your own games. Join us starting at a slightly earlier time—6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. —more time for fun!

—Ruth Geraci

Social Concerns Committee

Seeks Input

What does the term **SOCIAL CONCERNS** mean to you? Locally, nationally, internationally? What can our Fellowship do to be effective in reaching out beyond ourselves?

We, the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship Social Concerns Committee, need HELP — with ideas and with people like you willing to contribute either or both thought and time. As a starter, let’s get together following the Sunday service the first week in August — August 6 at 12:45 p.m. in the Fellowship library. See you there!!!

—Ann and Stu Chapman

Evening Travelogues?

A lot of Fellowship members and friends have traveled to interesting places across the country and around the world. There’s been some interest expressed in having a monthly travelogue program at the Fellowship for the enjoyment of members, friends and guests.

If you are interested in providing a travelogue or in organizing these events on a monthly or occasional basis, contact President Ed Lawrence, Edfairhope@bellsouth.net, or Board member Ruth Geraci, ruth-dow@gulftel.com.

Lost Baby Cradle

A local woman was working at a hurricane shelter last fall, along with a woman from the FUF. The FUF member borrowed a baby crib or cradle, possibly for a hurricane victim. The local woman needs the cradle back, but cannot remember the name of the borrower.

If you know the whereabouts of the cradle, please contact Gail Gardner, 928-3041, so it can be returned to its owner.

With summer coming to an end, we welcome back the children from their vacations, travels, and camps. Our youngest members have been quite busy these past few months with activities such as People to People, Ballet Camp, Camp Beckwith, Open Art Studio, and travel in the U.S. and abroad.

This September we would like to begin a program that will connect the adults with the children. “**Secret Pals**” pairs an adult Fellowship member with a child of the Fellowship for a series of letters and other exchanges. This is a fun, loosely-structured program and

will last for a few months. We would also like to extend an invitation to anyone wishing to spend some class time with us. If you have a special talent, hobby or interest that you would like to share with the children, we’d love to have you join us one Sunday.

If you are interested in becoming a “Secret Pal” to one of our youth or would like to share your expertise with them, please call Shelly or Doug West at 990-3350, or come by the R.E. room.

Doug & Shelly West

Words to Consider from American Thinkers

The following quotation is excerpted from the essay “Are We Religious?” by Algernon D. Black. The complete essay may be found at the website for the American Ethical Union, www.aeu.org.

Why not let people differ about their answers to the great mysteries of the Universe? Let each seek one's own way to the highest, to one's own sense of supreme loyalty in life, one's ideal of life. Let each philosophy, each world-view bring forth its truth and beauty to a larger perspective, that people may grow in vision, stature and dedication. The religions of humanity should be a unifying force, for all the great religions reveal a basic unity in ethics. Whether it be Judaism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Buddhism or Confucianism, all grow out of a sense of the sacredness of human life. This moral sensitivity to the sacredness of human personality -- the Commandments not to kill, not to hurt, not to put a stumbling block in the path of the blind, not to neglect the widow or the fatherless, not to exploit the servant or the worker -- all this can be found in the Bibles of humanity, in all the sacred books. All teach in substance: "Do unto others as you would that others should do unto you." There is, then, a basic unity

among the great religions in the matter of ethics.

True, there are religious philosophies which turn people away from the world, from the here and now, concentrating life-purposes on salvation for one's self or a mystic union with some supernatural reality. But most of the great religions agree on mercy, justice, love — here on earth. And they agree that the great task is to move people from apathy, from an acceptance of the evils in life, to face the possibilities of the world, to make life sweet for one another instead of bitter. This is the unifying ethical task of all the religions — yes, of all the philosophies of humankind. There is no need to force our own theological points of view upon one another or to insist that the moral life grows out of final, absolute authority.

Algernon D. Black (1900-1995) was a member of the Board of Leaders of the New York Society for Ethical Culture, and Head of the Ethics Department in the Ethical Culture Schools. He gave distinguished service to many enterprises of social welfare and reform, including especially the problems of discrimination and interracial relations.

Recently the newsletter editor received a note from Fellowship member Winn Faulk. (This note was published on page 5 of the July issue.) Winn had attended services at the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City. There he noted a life-sized relief of Rev. Henry Whitney Bellows, who spent a year in Mobile, Alabama, after finishing Harvard Divinity School. Winn inquired as to whether Mobile had a Unitarian Church at that time, or perhaps was he associated with the Congregational Church.

Two responses were received regarding this query.

Frank Laraway writes:

I have noted to our group the abbreviated history of Henry Whitney Bellows on several occasions to note our consistent history of abolitionism in this area, even in Mobile. It is my vague recollection that one of the sources of his biography was the UU World magazine, circa 1975-1990. Those of you who get the magazine might wish to pull up the U website and search under Bellows. All Souls Church is such a famous church, it too may be a good subject for those who are good at searching the Internet. I will, over weeks to come, be imposing on my friend and former head of the Mobile Archives Jay Higginbotham to do a search in the archives on Bellows since he was so outspoken against slavery.

The substance of the article on Bellows was that he was the minister of a Mobile Unitarian Church, and that he was literally run out of Mobile under extreme duress because he preached the abolition of slavery. It does imply that he had a bone fide Unitarian church in Mobile.

Any idea that he was a Congregational minister is likely to be found erroneous since I have read the definitive book on the history of Congregationalism and there is no mention of him, notwithstanding that he was fairly famous at All Souls Church.

(However, the Congregationalist schism was one of leaving Congregationalists, Unitarians, Presbyterians and a few Baptists. Whole churches with their buildings converted to become Unitarian churches. Many New England Unitarians are half Congregationalist to this day. Also Congregationalists were the main sect who helped the newly freed slaves following the CW, establishing many black colleges, several in Alabama, including Talladega, and all over the South. Originally, they were mostly staffed by white abolitionist educators and later integrationists during the later years of segregation. Because of the black separatist movement starting in the 1950s most whites have been purged and the Congregational financial support has ceased or been reduced for these colleges and schools.)

Bellows was undoubtedly an unusual man. We should learn more about him. If a reliable biography is procured, someone should present him as a program subject.

* * *

Lorraine Nevill, Board President, UU Fellowship of Mobile, writes:

Susan Price handed me a copy of the Fairhope UU newsletter and asked me if I knew anything about Rev. Henry Whitney Bellows being in Mobile.

According to our history, James Freeman Clark organized the first Unitarian Church in Mobile in 1836. Bellows was the minister of the congregation during 1837-1838. More information is available at our website UUFM.org.

Ed note: A snip from the Mobile Fellowship website states:

“After Clark left Mobile, he was succeeded by Henry Whitney Bellows. Bellows, like Clarke before him, only remained for a month. Two subsequent temporary ministers followed. By this time, the slavery issue was becoming a hot point for the Unitarians in the South.”

**Scooter for Sale:
Proceeds go to FUF**



Thanks to Ruth Perot for donating her “Rascal” scooter. A picture of it is on the Fellowship bulletin board, and the scooter is available for viewing in the garden house. Ruth paid about \$4400 for the scooter, and the asking price is \$2,000. Proceeds from its sale will go into the Fellowship general fund.

Call Wilma Albers, 929-0780, or Celeste Hinds, 928-6526 if you would like to see it.

Mark Your August Calendar

Thur., Aug 3: Non-Fiction Book Review Group, 9:30 a.m.

Sun., Aug. 6: Social Concerns Committee —Open Discussion. 12:45 p.m.

Thur., Aug. 10: Book Discussion Group, 9:30 a.m. Author: A.N. Wilson

Fri., Aug. 11: Fellowship Board , 9:30 a.m.

Sat., Aug. 12: Saturday Night Movie, “*Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch’s War on Journalism*”, 7 p.m.

Thur., Aug. 17: Non-Fiction Book Review Group, 9:30 a.m.

Welcome Our New Members

Juanie Noland

Juanie Noland moved to Fairhope from Auburn for love – of the sea and of grandchildren (who live in Foley.) In 2004 she retired from Tuskegee University, where she taught courses in reading and language arts education in the Elementary Education Department for 33 years.

Juanie grew up in Liberty and Hazlehurst, Mississippi, and graduated from Louisiana State University, University of Southern Mississippi, and Auburn University. A member of the Baptist church growing up, as an adult she gradually moved toward a broader view of spirituality, such as that found in Unitarianism. She was a member of the Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for several years.

Juanie’s interests include reading, photography, children’s literature and, most recently, memoir writing. For over 20 years she has shared her life with Robin Fabel.

Robin Fabel

After a childhood spent mostly in the southern hemisphere, Robin Fabel returned to his native England to be educated. After Oxford, he taught in Nottinghamshire. Drawn by an enduring interest in U.S. history, he

came to America in 1967. He taught at Auburn University for 34 years except for breaks when he lectured in Singapore and Natal. Eighteenth-century Florida dominates his books and articles.

Ecclesiastically he has journeyed from the Church of England to the Unitarians by way of the Quakers. His hobbies are writing, reading and fair weather gardening. He is glad that his two sons and two granddaughters live in the South. Since 1983 he has shared his life with Juanie Noland.

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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