

September 2006



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

**FELLOWSHIP MEMBERS: “The Joy of Work: Paid or Unpaid”**

Sep.3 *Several Fellowship members will talk about their volunteer and professional work, and the personal rewards of these experiences. The congregation will be invited to share experiences as well.*

Introduction: Wilma Albers

**MICHAEL PATRICK: “P.T. Barnum: The Greatest Universalist on Earth ”**

Sep.10 *P.T. Barnum is remembered today as “the greatest showman on Earth,” a self-proclaimed title, but he was much more than that. He followed Universalist principles all his life which led him to oppose slavery, seek social justice for the unfortunate, and run for public office. Fellowship member and historian Dr. Michael Patrick will tell us all about this interesting man.*

Introduction: Ruth Geraci

**ROBIN FABEL: “When the Union Jack Flew Over the Eastern Shore”**

Sep.17 *The Union Jack . . .over the Eastern Shore? Hmmm. Come learn the truth about this from historian Dr. Robin Fabel, educated in his native England but with a 34 year career at Auburn University as a history professor.*

Introduction: Michael Patrick

**SUSAN PACE HAMILL: “Challenges for Alabama Citizens of Faith ”**

Sep.24 *Susan Pace Hamill has been a Professor of Law at the University of Alabama School of Law since 1994. She completed a Master’s degree in theological studies at the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in 2002, and published her thesis “An Argument for Tax Reform Based on Judeo-Christian Ethics” attacking Alabama’s state and local tax laws on faith-based moral grounds. Since publishing her thesis, she has remained in demand as a speaker for promoting economic justice in Alabama.*

Introduction: Harvey Joanning

**The Fourth Sunday potluck will follow the program. Please bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship and good conversations.**

**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](http://www.fairhopeuu.org)



**Be sure to attend our Fellowship’s Benefit Concert by Wildwood September**

## Fellowship President's Message

The Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship has 32 committees. While some committees need only one person to carry out the tasks required, many of them have several members, and many of these need additional volunteers.

As soon as the weather cools down a bit we will need a group to pull weeds, trim shrubs, and spruce up the grounds. If you would like to help call Celeste Hinds or Mary Ellen Hoffman.

Since the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship is perhaps the only congregation in the UUA Mid-South District that does not have an annual pledge drive, we are highly dependent on our fund-raising projects to raise the funds needed to maintain our building. We could use a volunteer to organize our next garage sale (or resale shop as we call it.) Talk to Celeste Hinds or Jean or Ed Lawrence if you would like to help.

Another area where we could be raising funds to offset the cost of maintaining the building is through making the facilities available for wedding receptions or other events. Helping to organize concert fund-raiser events is another volunteer opportunity.

Jule Moon is always asking for volunteers to bring cookies for our coffee hour, to serve as greeters, or to help in the kitchen. She will especially need kitchen help in September when some of the regular volunteers are on vacation. There is usually a sign-up sheet on the back table; just sign up and Jule will call you when help is needed.

A volunteer could also learn how to use the audio & visual equipment, to be available as needed for showing movies.

In case you are wondering what the 32 committees are, and who the chairpeople are, here is the list. If you would like to participate on any committees, contact the chairperson.

**Art Committee:** Jean Lawrence

**Budget Committee:** Jon Leff & Gail Gardner

**Building Maintenance:** George Hinds

**Building Usage:**

**Care & Concerns:** Diane Tracy

**Chalice Lighters:** Helen Earl

**Environmental Concerns:** Debbie Jessup

**Fund Raising:** Celeste Hinds

**Historical Records:** Michael Patrick

**Hospitality:** Jule Moon

**Lawn & Garden:** Mary Ellen Hoffman

**Library:** Rodney Hoffman

**Light Bulb:** George Hinds, Michael Patrick, Bud Worrall

**Long Range Planning Committee:** Michael Patrick

**Membership:** Celeste Hinds,

**Memory / Honor Book:** Lisa Meyers

**Music Planning:** Dee Leff

**Newsletter:** Ruth Geraci

**Opening, Setting Up, Closing:** Frank Laraway

**Program:** Wilma Albers

**Publications:** Debbie Jessup

**Publicity:** Diane Ehlers

**Readings:** Debbie Jessup and Ruth Geraci

**Education:** Bud Gardner

**Saturday Evening Documentary Movies:** Edward Lawrence

**Saturday Evening Entertainment Movies:** Sterling Bingham

**Saturday Evening Game Nights:** Ruth Geraci

**Social Concerns:** Ann & Stuart Chapman

**Sound & Video Committee:**

**Sunday Bulletin:** Ruth Geraci

**UUA Mid-South Rep:** Mary Ellen Hoffman

**Webmaster:** E.J. Campfield

— Ed Lawrence

Documentary Films First  
Saturday of Each Month

The Saturday Night Club at the Fellowship will present a film on September 2 at 7 p.m.:

*“Taken for a Ride”*

Why does America have the worst public transit in the industrialized world, and the most freeways?

*Taken for a Ride* reveals the tragic and little known story of an auto and oil industry campaign, led by General Motors, to buy and dismantle streetcar lines. Across the nation, tracks were torn up, sometimes overnight, and diesel buses placed on city streets.



The highway lobby then pushed through Congress a vast network of urban freeways that doubled the cost of the Interstates, fueled suburban development, increased auto dependence, and elicited passionate opposition. Seventeen city freeways were stopped by citizens who would become the leading edge of a new environmental movement.

With investigative journalism, vintage archival footage and candid interviews, *Taken for a Ride* presents a revealing history of our cities in the 20th century that is also a meditation on corporate power, city form, citizen protest and the social and environmental implications of transportation.

Admission is free, but contributions are accepted.

—Ed Lawrence

Nominating Committee Appointed

The Annual Meeting of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship will be held in the month of December. At that meeting members will elect officers to serve for the year 2007.

Michael Patrick has been appointed to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee. Pam Perkins and Jule Moon also serve as members of the Nominating Committee.

If you would like to recommend someone to be nominated, or if you would be interested yourself in running for a position on the Executive Board, let Michael or one of the other members of the Nominating Committee know.

Fellowship Game Night Second Saturday of  
Each Month 6:30-9 p.m.

Fellowship Game Night resumes on the second Saturday in September, Sept. 9. Participants are looking for a couple of bridge players, a few people to play Rook®, and a group of folks to play Scattergories®, a fast-paced word game (no previous experience necessary). But that's not all!

Other activities, such as Scrabble®, Mah Jongg, Taboo®, and various card games will be available, and you are welcome to bring your own games to share.

Bring your own beverage, and a snack if you wish, but keep it simple. 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 a slightly earlier time—6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. —more time for fun!

Questions? Email [ruthdow@gulftel.com](mailto:ruthdow@gulftel.com)

—Ruth Geraci

## Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship Youth News

The children's lessons have recently come from UU curricula "We Believe, Learning and Living Our Unitarian Universalist Principles". Topics we've explored through games, stories, role playing and art include:

Inner Peace – We read a story about Prince Gautama finding his own inner peace and we learned about Mahatma Gandhi. The children all learned the gesture for and the word "Namaste — I honor the place of peace in you."

Teachers and Learners – We read about Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan and then took turns teaching each other how to do something using the game charades.

Caring for All – We took an imaginary trip to a home unlike our own. We visualized a

### UU Women's Conference Announced

Anyone interested in attending the Unitarian Universalist **Womenspirit Fall 2006** to be held at The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, Highlands, N.C. September 20-24, please contact Social Concerns chair Ann Chapman, telephone 929-0894 or e-mail [chapas@bellsouth.net](mailto:chapas@bellsouth.net) for information.

The theme this year is Changing Woman; the format is experiential workshops utilizing meditation, imagery, chanting and dance. Fees range from \$161 to \$442 depending on selection of activities, with scholarships available to Womenspirit members (membership \$20.)

**Want to simplify your life?** The first Simplicity Circle has been very successful for its members. A second Circle will start this fall when eight to ten people have indicated their interest in joining. Meeting date and time will be determined by the group members. Contact Gail Gardner, 928-3041 or [wgardner@bellsouth.net](mailto:wgardner@bellsouth.net) for information or to sign up.

home without running water or electricity, with very little food and very little money, in a one room shack in a tiny village with no doctors or schools. We played a "Safe Day" game where Terror and Disease cards outnumbered Food, Water, Shelter, and Medicine cards.

Global Village – Each of us created our own country, complete with government, religion, customs, language, geography and a flag. Each child presented their country and its view and ideas for world peace. Afterwards, one of the new countries was voted into the United Nations.

The children have really enjoyed these dynamic sessions. We know it gets a little noisy at times, but we hope you understand their enthusiasm. The participation has been wonderful and they are truly learning life lessons.

Also, don't forget the "Secret Pals" program. We need some more adults to be matched with the children. See or call Shelly or Doug at 990-3350 or e-mail us at [honeymoonbees@netscape.com](mailto:honeymoonbees@netscape.com). We should start some time in September.

—Doug & Shelly West

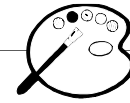
### Nonfiction Book Review Group

The Nonfiction Book Review Group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Office. 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.

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

**Save a tree.** Let the editor know if you are reading the newsletter on line and don't need a printed copy each month.

## Fellowship To Display Paintings from Six NC Artists



During September and October the Fellowship will host the paintings of six artists from Wilmington, NC. The opening reception will be **Saturday, September 2 from 3-5pm.**

Three of these painters are founder-directors of a biannual international artist colony held off the coast on Bald Head Island called **No Boundaries, Inc.**

Gayle Tustin, who studied ceramics at Alfred and Penn State, works in a vibrant and animated manner. In addition to her many international exhibitions she was given the Women of Achievement in the Arts Award in 2004.

Co-founder of No Boundaries Dick Roberts has exhibited his large luminous canvases in France, Germany, Switzerland and Macedonia.

Pamela Toll, an art instructor at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, known for her intricate mixed media work, has also exhibited extensively abroad.

Ginny Wright-Frierson is both an artist and a writer/illustrator. Her studies include the Art Students League in New York and Studies Abroad in Cortona, Italy. She was commissioned to paint a commemorative mural at the Columbine High School in Colorado.

Peg Schroeder has worked in a multitude of medias. She believes we are all artists and is inspired by her travels, private lessons, workshops and surrounding herself with art and artists.

Shawn Best and Bonnie England are well known members of the artist community in North Carolina and have exhibited extensively there.

### Join us at the Reception Sept. 2

Fellowship members, friends and the public are encouraged to attend the opening reception September 2. Refreshments will be served and live music will provide background for the art viewing. — *Pinky Bass*

## Notes from the August 11 Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 by Ed Lawrence, President. Other Board members present were Ruth Geraci, Pam Perkins, EJ Campfield, Wilma Albers, Diane Ehlers, and Jule Moon. Also present was Gail Gardner, acting Treasurer.

Financial Report: Money Market Fund increased

Organ will be offered as donation pending recommendation of Ecumenical Ministries

Upcoming musical fund-raisers include Wildwood, a Steven Foster program, and Ken Sizemore

Alfa Insurance agent spoke concerning our current coverage

Proposed fund-raiser selling baked goods at Week's Bay plant sale

Need Chairperson for fall resale shop

Newsletters will continue to be printed and mailed; however, some may elect to use Website instead

Jazz Jam question postponed

Saturday evening lineup settled

Building Usage Policy to be updated; will finalize at future meeting

Attic ladder still needs to be fixed/replaced

Nominating Committee to be formed

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20.

Pam Perkins, Recording Secretary

## News from The Fellowship Buying Club



After being in “business” for about eight months, the FUF Buying Club has been somewhat successful as a fundraiser. Over \$300. in “profit” has been earned; some twelve pounds of coffee have been provided to the UU Kitchen for Sunday service use; and a contribution, albeit, a modest one, has been made to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s Small Farmer Program. All this has been possible because of our participation in the Interfaith Coffee Program run by Equal Exchange, a very special coffee company.

The accompanying tables show the summary of data for the four orders I have placed with Equal Exchange to date. The summary is

very encouraging, especially for coffee and cocoa product sales. Understandably, these sales are strong in the cooler months of the year and taper off as the mercury rises. Equal Exchange sells an array of coffees from around the world and it might be fun in the fall to sample some of these – perhaps in conjunction with a potluck Sunday?

My role as a coordinator for the Buying Club has gone smoothly, largely as a result of the outpouring of support, both for the gourmet products being sold, and a good cause.

The next order will be placed in early October.  
 “Good to the last drop”

—*Phil Strniste*

### Summary of FUF Buyers’ Club Orders #1-4 (12/5/05, 1/9/06, 3/6/06, 5/15/06)

#### I. Total sales based on invoice and retail prices

Item	Total # ordered	Total sold	Total to Kitchen	Total Unsold	Retail Price	Total Sales
Coffee	100 lbs	88 lbs	12 lbs	0	\$9.00/lb	\$792.00
Chocolate Bars	120	117	0	3	\$3.00	\$348.00
Hot Cocoa	18	18	0	0	\$5.00	\$90.00
Baking Cocoa	6	6	0	0	\$5.00	\$30.00
Tea	15	10	0	5	\$4.00	\$40.00
						\$1300.00

II. Total extra donations made to Buying Club: \$16.50	III. Total cost	<u>Item</u>	<u>Total cost</u>
		Goods	\$1,003.80
		Misc.(phone calls)	<u>2.11</u>
			\$1,005.91

IV. Total Fundraiser Dollar Net for FUF \$1300.00

-1005.91

\$294.09 + \$16.50(donations) = \$310.59

V. **Total Benefit to FUF**                      **\$310.59**    +73.68 (coffee used by UU x \$6.14 wholesale)

Total value of unsold inventory (using retail prices)	Chocolate bars    \$12.00
	Tea <u>\$20.00</u>
	Total                    \$32.00

## Social Concerns Committee Reports on First Meeting

The attendees at the first Social Concerns Committee meeting August 6 were: Wilma Albers, Sterling Bingham, Ann & Stu Chapman, Diane Ehlers, and Bill McBride.

Discussion centered on an initial project or projects. Consideration was given to suggestions provided by Fellowship members, specifically: Aid to Inmate Mothers, the Southern Poverty Law Center, English as a Second Language for local immigrants, Habitat for Humanity, and the need for public transportation.

The focus of discussion was on growing public awareness of public transit needs, exemplified by a 7/30/06 article in the business section of the **Press Register** on the need to help businesses fill jobs and get people to work. The article quoted Fairhope Mayor Tim Kant who said,

*“I think we need to start planning ahead and not wait until we can’t move from one place to the next. I’d like to see us agreeing to start working together for the common good of all the citizens of South Alabama.”*

A study on regional transit by the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission is expected to be released in October this year. An ALABAMA ARISE Citizens’ Policy Project Fact Sheet (10/20/05) indicates that:

1. Alabama leads the nation in drivers who commute along – about 1.6 million people, 85.4% of the state’s workforce.
2. Less than 20% of workers carpool.
3. Less than 1% of Alabamians use public transportation to get to work.
4. Three of the state’s largest counties (Mobile, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa) have urban systems but no rural service. In these

three counties live 61% of people without access to rural transit.

5. Issues are road congestion, air quality, failure to meet ozone standards, impediments to economic development in rural areas, wear and tear to roads and bridges, increased risk of highway accidents.

6. Transportation costs are tied with housing costs as the greatest household expense in Alabama.

Questions raised in the committee meeting were: What is present availability of transportation and what are the needs in Fairhope? Sterling Bingham offered to obtain information on the costs and functioning of locally available BRATS. A consensus was that there is a need for regularly scheduled transportation using specific routes. Besides the needs of workers to and from Fairhope to jobs are needs of senior citizens to get to such destinations as Mobile and the airport. There was a suggestion to establish a volunteer pool to drive the elderly.

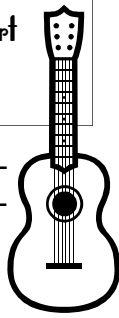
There were also suggestions of conservation efforts that can be made in the interest of reducing global warming, *i.e.* wind, solar and nuclear power; tankless water heaters; solar lawn and security lights.

Under consideration are a Global Warming study group as well as an action group, perhaps geared to the above transportation issue. There is an intersection of both causes, with public transportation able to ease CO2 emissions.

There is ongoing support of other causes by individuals within the Fellowship that could be reported on through this committee’s work in order to advance awareness of and participation in other relevant causes.

—Ann and Stuart Chapman

Come to the **Wildwood** Concert  
Sept. 17 at our Fellowship!



Join music lovers for a relaxing afternoon with **Wildwood**, Sunday, September 17, 3-5 p.m. at the Fellowship.

Tickets are \$5 each, and are available in advance at Jubilee Music, Page & Palette, and Exquisite Kitchens and Baths in Fairhope, and at Two Sassy Cups Tea Room in Foley, or at the door the day of the concert.

A portion of the proceeds of this concert will be donated to Habitat for Humanity.

**Wildwood**, an engaging musical duo consisting of Kathy Dukes, vocals and guitar, and Gayle Decker, rhythm and harmonica, offers music to soothe the soul, tap the toe, and awaken fond memories in all of us. **Wildwood** performs an eclectic selection including such standards as *Stars Fell on Alabama*, *Over the Rainbow*, and *Fly Me to the Moon*, along with the rhythms of songs like *Under the Boardwalk*, *Groovy Kind of Love* and *The Unicorn*.

Kathy Dukes is an experienced performer, having sung and played with her very talented family since childhood. In addition to guitar, she also plays the hammered dulcimer and banjo. A quiet person by nature, Kathy best projects her loving concern for this world through her heartfelt music.

Gayle Decker plays a variety of instruments, but only recently picked up the harmonica. After hearing someone play harmonica down at the pier in Fairhope a couple of years ago, she showed up there the following Tuesday night with a three-dollar plastic harmonica and a sense of humor which has endeared her to local musicians. She has scaled up to a collection of harmonicas in a suitcase, along with an assortment of rhythm instruments. Gayle's skill in bending notes, along with her innate sense of rhythm, drives the beat and gives special flavor to **Wildwood**.

**Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy two local talents! Bring your friends!**

Mark Your Calendar

**Fri., Sep. 1:** Fellowship Board, 9:30 a.m.

**Sat., Sep. 2:** Artists' Reception, 3-5 p.m.

**Sat., Sep. 2:** Saturday Night Documentary, "Taken for a Ride." 7 p.m.

**Thur., Sep. 7:** Non-Fiction Book Review Group, 9:30 a.m.

**Sat., Sep. 9:** Fellowship Game Night, 6:30-9 p.m.

**Thur., Sep. 14:** Book Discussion Group, 9:30 a.m. Author: Walker Percy.

**Sat., Sep. 16:** Saturday Night entertainment movie: TBA.

**Sat., Sep. 17:** Wildwood Concert, 3 p.m.

**Thur., Sep. 21:** Non-Fiction Book Review Group, 9:30 a.m.

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

Children's Hand-Knit Sweaters Needed

**Afghans for Afghans**, a non-profit organization, needs hand-knitted sweaters for school-age children. Donations are needed by late September, to get to Afghanistan before cold weather sets in. For more information, contact Gail Gardner, 928-3041.

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](mailto:ruthdow@gulftel.com)

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