

QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

<http://www.afn.org/~quakers/>

Meeting Place: 702 NW 38th St., Gainesville, Fla. 32607

Phone: 352-372-1070

NEWSLETTER, TENTH MONTH, 2007

JEAN LARSON, CLERK

Queries and Advice for the Tenth Month: Social and Economic Justice

Queries: Do we seek to transform the world with our loving spirit? *Do we take an active interest in the social and economic conditions of our community?* Have we objectively considered the causes of discrimination and are we ready to abandon old prejudices and think anew? *Do we, as individuals and as a Meeting, do all in our power to end governmental, social, economic and educational injustices in our community, and to create equal opportunity for all?* How do we as individuals and as a Meeting promote the welfare of those in need and work to secure a just distribution of the world's resources? *What are we doing as individuals and as a Meeting to understand and remove the causes of war and violence and to develop the conditions and institutions of peace?*

Advice: Seek to understand the causes of social ills and work toward their removal. *Be not content to accept things as they are, but keep an alert, sensitive, and questioning mind.* Understand and maintain Friends' witness for truth, simplicity, and non-violence, holding up your personal life to these testimonies. *Encourage inclusiveness and discourage discrimination.* Friends' belief in "That of God in Everyone" should lead to reverence for all life and to personal integrity. *Encourage all efforts to overcome prejudices and antagonisms.* Cherish diversity. *Aid and comfort those afflicted or in prison, that they may rebuild their lives.* Work for the abolition of the death penalty. *Let the way that we live contribute to the realization of a peaceable kingdom on earth.*

In our darkness, You kindle a fire that never dies away.

Brother Roger of Taize

MEETING NEWS AND NOTES

News from the First-Day School Committee: We are excited about our plans for first-day school! Below you will find our agenda, with some “holes” (or opportunities for more fun) to fill in still. **Earthcare Witness Committee** is planting seeds in the children as they teach them every third Sunday. This month, they will have a lesson on recycling on Oct. 21.

High School and Mature Middle School Students: Gainesville Friends Meeting plans a retreat at Hart Springs on **Saturday Oct. 13**. No program is planned to interfere with our chances for spontaneous relaxation and fellowship. We hope students can arrive around 11:00 for fun, lunch and more fun. Catherine will bring some face masks, fins, and snorkels. Hart Springs has boardwalks, paddle boats for rent, and canoes, so there is something for everyone.

On Friday Oct. 19, the older First-Day School students plan to head for a weekend at the Winefordner home in Flagler Beach. This event will require advance planning by the students, along with parents and chaperones on matters concerning food and activities including a possible work project, and policies for safety and transportation. Please indicate interest in these activities to Catherine, Odalis or Laura W.

Over the year, we plan to have a Fishbowl discussion at a Forum, and movies and pizza now and then. Our first pizza lunch was a big hit (with adults too!).

Older Students: The schedule so far is as follows:

September 30 Jeannie B will give an overview of “Nonviolent Communication.” If the class wishes to explore this further, more classes can be scheduled.

October 7 Plan October events

October 14

October 21 Flagler Beach

October 28 Teach younger children

November 4 Plan Christmas program

November 11 Teach younger children

November 18 Earthcare Witness Committee
(includes younger children)

November 25 Thanksgiving weekend, no class

December 2 Plan Christmas program (the party might be on Saturday December 8)

December 9

December 16 Earthcare Witness Committee
(includes younger children)

December 23

December 30

Younger Students: The schedule so far is as follows:

First, we hope Friends will be willing to use the lesson bags that Connie and the committee put together last year, or their own plans, to fill in at needed times.

September 9 Laura W

September 16 Earthcare Witness Committee (with older class)

September 23 Laura W

September 30

October 7

October 14

October 21 Earthcare Witness – Recycling!

October 28 lesson taught by older class

November 4

November 11 Laura W

November 18 Earthcare Witness Committee (with older class)

November 25 Thanksgiving weekend, no class

December 9

December 16 Earthcare Witness Committee (with older class)

December 23

December 30

Most of all, we want to say thanks to all, children and adults, who are helping to get us off to a good start. Laura, for the committee -- Karen K, Odalis, Catherine, and Laura

Can You Help? SEYM Gathering Youth Endowment Fund: Palm Beach Meeting has offered to match donations to the Gathering Youth Endowment Fund up to a total of \$10,000 if the donations are received by

October 6. On September 16, donations to match all but \$685 had come in. If the entire amount is matched, the fund will reach a total of \$40,000, the minimum required to be able to draw on the interest earned by the fund. This fund is held by Friends Fiduciary Corporation with investment earning earmarked for the SEYM Gathering Committee to disperse to help cover youth-attendance costs to SEYM. Please consider writing a check payable to SEYM and mailing it to SEYM, PO Box 510795, Melbourne Beach, FL 32951.

Meeting Retreat *at* Hart Springs



Saturday October 13th
10am-5pm

Potluck Lunch at 12 Noon at the Pavilion

Come have fun swimming in a natural spring, walking and biking the FL Bird Trail or along the Suwannee River, canoeing & kayaking, playing games and enjoying the fellowship of Friends.

- ◇ Entrance Fees: \$2 Adults/Youth
\$1 Seniors
Children under 5 FREE
- ◇ Camping \$20 per day for up to 4 persons—call 352-463-3444
- ◇ No Lifeguard on duty
- ◇ No pets (except in campground) and no alcohol
- ◇ The Pavilion has tables, chairs, heat/AC and electric outlets
- ◇ Bring coolers— there is no refrigerator in the Pavilion
- ◇ Indoor activities in the Pavilion

(Please note that Jim and Karen are camping the night before. If you are interested in doing the same and coordinating meals with them, please call one of them.)

Directions: West on Newberry Rd (SR 26) past Trenton, Rt. on CR 232 and follow signs. About 40 minutes travel time. 4240 SW 86th Ave. Bell, FL www.hartsprings.com ◇ 352-463-3444 ◇ fun@hartsprings.com

Quakerism 101: This class is open to anyone (newcomers and long-time members alike) who is interested in learning more about Quakerism. We follow the course of study from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, with the most important goal of the class being to answer *all* questions class attenders have about Quakerism. We will meet again on Oct. 14 at 9:15. In October we will consider how demanding universalism is, the nature of

pseudo-universalism, and the danger of pseudo-universalism to Quakerism. Then we will participate in an exercise of reflection and sharing on that which is meaningful in worship. **Bring some note paper.** Sharing is voluntary, of course. If there is time, I will begin the next “lecture” on “Meeting for Worship.” (Connie)

Quaker Study Program: We will meet at the home of Phil and Jeannie on Friday, Oct. 26, 6 p.m., for potluck supper followed by a discussion of Tom Gates’ Pendle Hill Pamphlet, “Members One of Another: The Dynamics of Membership in Quaker Meeting.” (cost \$5 plus shipping and handling). Please see Connie. (Connie)

Nonviolent Communications: Everyone is invited to the Nonviolent Communication (NVC) study and practice group, which will meet at the meetinghouse on these dates from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 10 and 24. We will use Marshall Rosenberg’s book, *Nonviolent Communication, a Language of Life*, which is available at Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com, and The Center for Nonviolent Communication, www.cnvc.org. (Jeannie and Arlene)

Sacred Chanting Forum: Let us come together, opening our hearts and minds and strengthening our intention of peace, through Sacred Chanting. Sally Klein (Swarthmore College '62), student of Rabbi Shefa Gold, invites you to participate in a spiritual exploration. We will begin promptly at **12:45 on Oct. 7** in the Worship Room, share chanting and silence for an hour, then talk and/or chant till around 2:00. Sacred Chanting is a contemplative practice that can clear the mind, focus and refine intentions, and connect us in community. No prior knowledge of singing, chanting, or Hebrew language is required. (Sally)

International Fast for Peace (Invite for Friends): Please join us in Pitching Our Tents Together: An Interfaith Fast for Peace on Monday Oct. 8, 2007, Sunrise (7:26 a.m.) to Sunset (7:08 p.m.). The purpose of Pitching our Tents Together is to gather as people from a variety of faith communities, share the gifts of fasting, prayer, and then a meal as a means of transformation and empowerment for peace. The event coincides with Ramadan, Christian World Wide Communion Sunday, and the end of Sukkoth. We will fast from sunrise to sunset for an end to violence, specifically in Iraq, but also among our sisters and brothers in the Abrahamic community. The fast ends at sunset with a potluck vegetarian meal and ritual of sharing at the United Church of Gainesville. You are encouraged to bring a prepared dish to feed six and your own tableware. Care for small children will be available. United Church of Gainesville, 1624 NW 5th Avenue. For the potluck, doors open 6:30 p.m.; welcome at 7:00 p.m.; eat at 7:08 p.m.; close 8:30 p.m.

Hebrew ישרה שלום עלי אדמות

May Peace Prevail on Earth

For more information on the national interfaith fast for peace, see <http://www.interfaith.org>. For information about our local event, contact Shaya (377-6577), Eve (377-6577), Larry (378-3500), or Zoharah 392-1625, ext 228.

Meeting for Worship in Nature meets at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 21. Follow the path around the retention pond by the grassy parking area and then south into the bower. Bring something to sit on.

Movie Nights: There will be two movie nights this month – the regular one on **Oct. 19, at 7 p.m.** (MOVIE TBA) and a family-friendly movie night on **Friday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m. (at the Westmarks’ home – directions below)**. The family-friendly film will be “The Jungle Book.” The Jungle Book, of course, is one of the most popular Disney films ever. According to one review, “It is a song-filled celebration of friendship, fun, and

adventure set in a lush and colorful jungle world. The movie swings with jazzy, toe-tapping music that will make you want to dance and have you humming the tunes all the way home. A thrilling and memorable film classic for people of all ages." (*Jim and Arlene*)

Directions to Westmarks: We are on NE Boulevard, which is 5 blocks east of Main St. and 5 blocks north of University Ave., on the Duck Pond. Using the meeting house as a point of reference, go east on NW 8th Ave, cross over N. Main St. When you see the green & blue sign for "Sweetwater Branch," you are at NE Boulevard - make a right. (The Boulevard is not marked on NE 8th Ave. for some reason!) We are the last house on the right, on the corner of NE 5th Ave. and NE Boulevard.

Hold in the Light: Morrie T as he recuperates from multiple by-pass surgery, Gene B, and Tak in the light. Please also hold Louise S and her family in the Light for comfort and strength during this time of transition. Louise is with her son Don and his wife Janee in Massachusetts, and her son Ted and his wife are traveling from High Springs to Massachusetts to be with her as well. (*Connie*)

News from Gavin: My latest exciting news is that I've recently started a job teaching Spanish and humanities ("Oh – the humanity!) at Thornton Friends School in Silver Spring, Md. I'm in the TFS middle school, which normally has 30-40 students in grades 6-8, but is starting this school year with around 17. I've met about half of the student so far, and they really seem sweet. What a change from teaching in prison! These are also the youngest kids I've ever taught, so this should be a year full of surprises for me. More news as I find time to tell it. . . Take care, Gavin (*Gavin H*)

Clearness Committees: For those of you who would like more information about Quaker clearness committees, Connie Ray prepared this information: "A clearness committee meets with a person who is unclear on how to proceed in a keenly felt concern or dilemma, hoping that it can help this person reach clarity." *The purpose is not to give advice or "fix" a situation, but to listen without prejudice or judgment, to help clarify alternatives, and provide emotional support.* In our Gainesville Meeting a person may ask the Ministry and Nurture Committee to form a clearness committee. *The person may also choose the committee members, but in either case committee members should be chosen through some discernment process, and not just because they are good friends.* Good order in the function of the committee can best be maintained when agreed-upon guidelines are followed. Ministry and Nurture Committee members can assist attenders of our meeting in both forming a clearness committee and understanding those guidelines that our Quaker experience has shown to be most helpful in achieving clearness. (Note: * quote and excerpts from Jan Hoffman's "Clearness Committees and Their Use in Personal Discernment," twelfth month press, 1996, Philadelphia) (*Connie*)

Pendle Hill Courses: October 22-26: a short course entitled "Faith to Follow: Responding to Call" will be offered at Pendle Hill by Viv Hawkins under the care of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. Details: www.pendlehill.org/programs/fall_2007_course_workshop_retreat_descriptions.php#1022. **November 16-18:** a retreat with Arthur Larrabee entitled "Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence" will be held at Pendle Hill. Details: www.pendlehill.org/programs/fall_2007_course_workshop_retreat_descriptions.php#1116. **Note: Some financial support is available from our meeting and the Pendle Hill Matching Scholarship Fund.** Details: http://pendlehill.vervemail.net/vmff/vm_link.php?id=8419&m_id=107757.

Ministry and Nurture: The committee reminds us that there are members who are hearing-impaired. Enunciation and volume would be appreciated in worship messages, introductions and announcements. Standing for messages and announcements helps the hearing-impaired focus attention. (*Connie*)

Friends From Around the World Meet: The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) 2007 Triennial was a highly scheduled conference filled with –

- brainstorming ideas involving the approval of the World Gathering to be held in 2012, consisting of 1,000 Friends in Nairobi, Kenya;
- working groups that met several times and were devoted to studying the following concerns:

HIV/AIDS and other medical concerns, Young Friends, VIOLENCE (including "Torture in the World" and "Living in War"), environmental sustainability, human rights (immigration/civil liberties/ death penalty/ war on terror), outreach – missions (intervisitations, far-away Friends, becoming known in the world);

interest sessions, of which there were more than the original 25;

worship/worship-sharing in designed circles with facilitators;

conversations over meals; occasionally tables were designated with subjects suggested for discussion; and

queues that began with registration, picking up towels, getting lost in a school complex having a series of wings and corridors in which everyone repeatedly got confused and which ended in our shuffling to tea and breakfast;

awaiting travel, advice, and the line of Friends with numerous farewells ..." may the wind be always at your back...." (from an Irish prayer)

Until a mid-week bus trip for all conference participants (over 300 from 45 countries), I would not have known I was in Ireland except for different bedding, potatoes at almost every meal, tasty whole grain bread or scones with marmalade and butter and unique bathroom plumbing. On that bus trip, we saw some of the postcard views of sheep on green hillsides, bogs of peat, prehistoric monoliths, stone houses with thatched roofs, steep hillsides covered in purple heather, Dublin's double-decker buses, second-story flower boxes with hanging blooms, and (of course) pubs with outdoor cafes and live concertina music.

Later in the week we danced a simple Irish gig and learned some singing rounds. The optional tour was an additional Quaker experience of fine camaraderie, Ffriendly worship and play with Cork and Waterford's Monthly Meetings. Our Irish hosts were totally welcoming and helpfully filled with good humor throughout the FWCC Triennial. (*Sybil*)

What to Do About Our Carbon Footprint (Earthcare Witness): A carbon footprint is "the estimated emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases associated with a particular activity (e.g., a plane trip, use of your car, your family's overall lifestyle or use of a particular product or service)." In the United States, the per capita emissions are more than 20 tons per year per person ((calculated by dividing total national greenhouse gas emissions by total population)." If you are you interested in being carbon neutral as an individual, as a family, as a corporation, consider some of these actions:

Conservation (using compact fluorescent light bulbs, switching off electronics at the outlet, not using drive thru's, planning car routes to minimize gas use, etc.) helps, but reducing our carbon emissions to zero is impossible. Going carbon neutral by purchasing carbon offsets -- the act of reducing or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions in one place to offset GHG emissions occurring elsewhere -- is a practical way to do something about the remaining emissions. Once you have done all you can do to reduce your emissions on the conservation end, then and only then should offsets be pursued. Carbon offsets should be purchased only from projects which have been certified by the GOLD STANDARD -- an internationally recognized benchmark for high quality carbon offset projects. (<http://www.goldstandard.org>). Carbon offset vendors using the Gold Standard: www.myclimate.org; www.climatefriendly.com; www.my-climate.com; www.atmosfair.de

Although voluntary offsets should not be seen as a substitute for government regulation, they allow us an opportunity to demonstrate leadership on climate change. For more information, visit www.goldstandard.org and click on To go Carbon Neutral. Please do all you can to

In the Woods and Around the Meetinghouse:

In the past few months I have been enjoying butterflies around the meetinghouse. I see them most often in front retention basin, where they seem especially attracted to the red flowers of the cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), or perhaps I see them



Near the cardinal flower spikes I planted some wild ageratum (*Conoclinium coelestinum*) bought from Claudia last spring; they are blooming happily at this time. I pulled up some of the ticktrefoil nearby to improve the conditions for the wild ageratum. I had pruned it earlier to let the cardinal flowers show above them, and that encouraged them to flower, so I can see that we have the exotic Dixie ticktrefoil (*Desmodium tortuosum*) rather than the native Florida ticktrefoil (*Desmodium floridana*). Both are hosts of the long-tailed skipper (*Urbanus proteus*), and while I saw a long-tailed skipper visiting the salt and pepper bush near the back door to the meeting room, I have not seen any sign that the ticktrefoil plants we have are hosting caterpillars.

Catherine pointed out a luna moth on the landing outside the social room door one day and said it was the second luna moth she had seen on our land. They are quite large, with a 3-4 inch wingspan and have a beautiful soft lime green color. One of their host plants is sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua* L.), of which we have plenty. Bill was able to take a picture of this specimen a bit later in the day (see photo). The adults do not eat and live only about a week, so I felt lucky to have seen one.

Brad has moved three of the wax myrtles to the area of the front retention basin near the parking, and they are adjusting to their new home. This move starts implementation of the plan to screen the retention basin from view. Karen A and Gary have identified the source of the white cotton masses under the leaves of a live oak tree in this vicinity as aphids.

The dead tree by the back retention pond has been removed, and the grandfather oak that the meeting room overlooks has been given some breathing room by the pruning of some sweet gums in the area. I appreciate the care with which this was done and thank Phil B for his expertise and his donation to help pay for the work.

I looked for the green dragons (*Arisaema dracontium*) after reading that they were also present near Paynes Prairie, but did not find them. It is a perennial, and I hope they reappear next spring and summer.

The fall native plant sale is October 19-20 at Morningside Nature Center, and I am looking forward to adding a few more specimens to our collection at that time. (Jean L)

Luna Moth (excerpt) by Carl Phillips

No eye that sees could fail to remark you:
like any leaf the rain leaves fixed to and
flat against the barn's gray shingle. But

what leaf, this time of year, is so pale,
the pale of leaves when they've lost just
enough green to become the green that *means*

loss and more loss, approaching?

OCTOBER 2007 GFM CALENDAR

All 1 st -Days	11 a.m.	Meeting for Worship, Gainesville Friends Meetinghouse, 702 NW 38 th St, Gainesville, Fla.
All 1 st -Days	11:15 a.m.	First-Day School
September 30	12:45 p.m.	Forum: Tim and students on Nicaragua
October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29	7 p.m.	Yoga with Gary

October 2	11:45 a.m.	Friendly Lunch at Books, Inc., 505 NW 13 th St. (all welcome)
October 5	7 p.m.	Family-Friendly Movie Night (The Jungle Book; see newsletter)
October 6		SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting
October 7	9:30 a.m.	Meetinghouse Committee Meeting
October 7	12:45 p.m.	Sacred Chanting Forum with Sally K (see newsletter)
October 8	6:30 p.m.	Pitching Our Tents Vegetarian Potluck at UCG (see newsletter)
October 10	7-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communications Group (see newsletter)
October 13	ALL DAY	Meeting Retreat at Hart Springs! See newsletter
October 13	10-11:30 a.m.	Solutions to Violence: An intro to Gandhi II, Westminster Presbyterian
October 14	9:15 a.m.	Quakerism 101 (see newsletter)
October 14	12:45 p.m.	Meeting for Worship for Business
October 15		Deadline for documents in advance for SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting
October 19	7 p.m.	Movie Night (TBA)
Oct 21-23	Even of Oct 21 begin	Older First-Day Students at Flagler Beach (Winefordner House)
October 21	9:30 a.m.	Meeting for Worship in Nature
October 21	Rise of Meeting	Potluck
October 21	12:45 p.m.	Earthcare Witness Committee
October 24	7-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication Group (see newsletter)
October 26	6 p.m. potluck; 7 p.m. discussion	Quaker Study Group at Jeannie and Phil's home (see newsletter)
October 27	10-11:30 a.m.	Solutions to Violence: An intro to Gandhi III, Westminster Presbyterian
October 28	9:30 a.m.	Peace and Social Concerns Committee
October 28	12:45 p.m.	Bible Study

Unless noted, meetings are at the GF Meetinghouse.

You simply will not be the same person two months from now after consciously giving thanks each day for the abundance that exists in your life. And you will have set in motion an ancient spiritual law: the more you have and are grateful for, the more will be given you.

Sarah Ban Breathnach