

# QUAKER NEWSLETTER

## GAINESVILLE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

**Newsletter Editor:**

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

⇒ *Newsletter submissions are due the Monday before the last Sunday of the month*

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**NEWSLETTER, TWELFTH MONTH, 2009**

**KAREN PORTER, CLERK**

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### **Queries for the Twelfth Month: PEACE TESTIMONY AND NON-VIOLENCE**

**Query:** Do we work for peace in the world? Do we nurture peace within ourselves? Do we “live in the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars”? Do we seek consistently to carry out this testimony for peace in all our relationships, including family, community, and work life? Do we as an individual and as members of Meeting seek to take part in the ministry of reconciliation between individuals, groups and nations? Do we faithfully maintain our peace testimony? Do we reject military training, preparation for war, and participation in war as inconsistent with the spirit of Christ’s teachings? Do we as a Meeting take a stand and do all we can to remove the causes of war and violence?

**Advice:** War is contrary to the life and teaching of Jesus. Seek through God’s power and grace to overcome in our hearts the emotions that lie at the root of conflict. Strive for non-violent approaches to conflicts in all aspects of our lives. Every human being is a beloved child of God, and has that Divine spark which claims our reverence. War is a denial of this truth. Friends’ peace testimony is the positive exercise of good will calling us to lend our influence to all that strengthens the growth of international friendships and understanding. Cultivate an active spirit of love and peace.

“The first step to peace is to stand still in the Light...” — George Fox

### **Ministry & Nurture**

**Please hold in the Light:** Andy and Eleanor Merritt; The Allees: Bonner, Susan and Mary; Tracy Jeshow

**Brainstorming Session for Quaker Study Program:** Come to the meetinghouse on Friday, December 4 and help plan what we will be discussing in the coming year. There will be plenty of catalogs available to peruse. Other ideas for discussion are welcome. Pot luck supper will be at 6:00 p.m. and brainstorming discussion to start at 7:00 p.m.

The Quaker Study Program Sub-committee purposely chooses the first Friday of December to avoid the holiday activities. Last year only 3 people showed up. In previous years (admittedly at the Buskirk’s home) there were about a dozen, giving the sub-committee lots of ideas from which to choose. If time, date, or place is a problem, please suggest alternatives.

**Meeting for Worship for Remembrance:** Ministry and Nurture Committee is planning to have a Meeting for Worship for Remembrance on a Saturday afternoon in either December or January. There are several people in our meeting who have lost loved ones this year and have not had a spiritually satisfying experience in which to grieve and try to find closure. Please let us know dates and times that would work best for you.

We would also like to hold another Memorial Meeting for Pets who have died and left people in our meeting grieving for their animal companions.

**Words to Contemplate:** “In meeting, we speak with the hope that our ministry will deepen the silence, not replace it, and that our words will call others to find their own sacred speech.” Daniel Snyder, “Quaker Witness As Sacrament” PHP#397 pp. 20-21.

*Connie Ray, Ministry & Nurture Clerk*

**Friendly Reading Group:** *Sandy Lyon, Clerk*

The Friendly Reading Group meets the first Sunday of each month at 2:30 PM at the meeting house for tea, goodies and a lively and informal discussion led by the friend who selected that month’s book. You are welcome to join us even if you don’t attend regularly or have not read the selection for the month.

Mona Morris will lead the December 6th selection of “Three Cups of Tea “ by Greg Mortenson. “Quaking” by Kathryn Erskine will be the selection for January 3rd led by Jean Larson. Jim Morrison will lead a discussion of “Agenda for a New Economy” by David Korten on February 7th. If you have any recommendations for books for future meetings, please contact Sandy Lyon or Betty Odum.



**22nd Annual Vets for Peace Winter Solstice  
PEACE CONCERT**

♪ **Music & Cheer for Dark Hours** ♪

Saturday December 19th, 2009 at 8pm  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville  
4225 NW 34th Street, Gainesville, FL  
\$5-20 Suggested Donation

Doors open at 6:30 pm. Ticket only guarantees admission before 7:30 pm.



**Parents Afternoon Out! Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup> 3-6pm.** For just \$10 per child, Sharee will provide crafts and food so parents can go holiday shopping and still have time to get to the Winter Solstice Peace concert at the UU church with our kids!! If you want your children to participate, then please let Sharee or Karen know by 12/12 so we can plan for helpers, if need be. There will be a sign-in sheet and a pizza snack. She is donating her time as the Friendly adult presence and is hoping we get enough interest to have the young adults involved as paid helpers. But, we need to know exactly how many children. Call 352-337-0686 to sign up and if you have any questions.

*Karen Porter*

**Library Committee** is sponsoring a Magazine Exchange!! Bring your magazines to the library to share. They are on the shelves under the library bulletin board. We will periodically donate those that are out-of-date to doctors' waiting rooms.

*Betty Odum, Clerk*

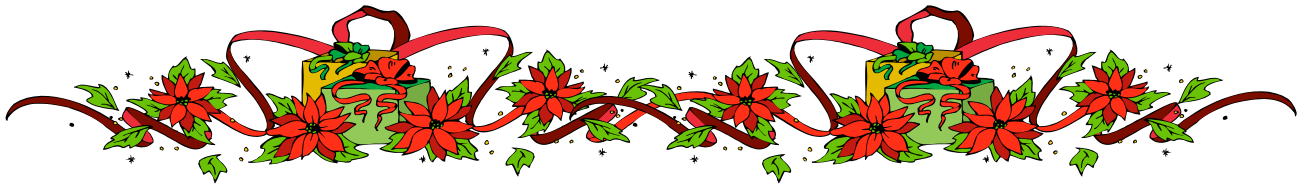
**Hospitality Committee:** Clerks of ALL Committees are asked to join the Hospitality Committee on Dec. 6th at 9:30am for a discussion regarding how best to find volunteers for setting up for the "Coffee &" hour(s) following Meeting for Worship.



**The Christmas Party** has been set for December 13<sup>th</sup>, the 2<sup>nd</sup> First Day in 12<sup>th</sup> Month at 1pm. It is hoped that the earlier time will accommodate adults as well as children, so all can enjoy the festivities without time and travel worries. The usual menu sign-up sheet will appear in the social room on the November 29<sup>th</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> First Day of the month.

*Mona Morris, Clerk*

**Forums:** Sunday at 1pm on: December 6<sup>th</sup> with Michael Boehm, "Hope Rises from the Ashes of My Lai" (about his work in Vietnam). He will also give a presentation on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 7 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. January 3<sup>rd</sup> on "Is there a Quaker approach to making a just, sustainable, and viable economy?"



**From Becky Ray**

...in the Washington Post – protest at Sidwell Friends School



**From Bill in Stockholm...**

Stockholm Meetinghouse

## TWELFTH MONTH 2009 GFM CALENDAR

<b>11/29/09</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>12:45pm</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
		<b>1pm</b>	<b>Repeat showing of film "Coal Country" - the hidden costs of coal &amp; mountain-top removal</b>
<b>12/1/09</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.</b>
<b>12/4/09</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Quaker Study Program &amp; Potluck</b>
<b>12/6/09</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Library, Hospitality &amp; Meetinghouse Committees</b>
		<b>1pm</b>	<b>Forum – Hopes Rises from Mai Lai</b>
		<b>2:30pm</b>	<b>Friendly Reading Group – Three Cups of Tea</b>
<b>12/13/09</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>after rise of Meeting</b>	<b>Meeting for Business – if needed..call Karen</b>
		<b>1pm</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>
<b>12/19/09</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>3-6pm</b>	<b>Parents Afternoon Out!!</b>
<b>12/20/09</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Singing</b>
		<b>after rise of Meeting</b>	<b>Potluck</b>
<b>12/27/09</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>9:40am</b>	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns Committee</b>
		<b>12:45pm</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
<b>1/3/10</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Library, Hospitality &amp; Meetinghouse Committees</b>
		<b>1pm</b>	<b>Forum - Quaker approach to sustainability</b>
		<b>2:30pm</b>	<b>Friendly Reading Group - Quaking</b>

Worship 11am First Day (Sunday)

*Unless noted, meetings are at the Meetinghouse*

