

QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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NEWSLETTER, SECOND MONTH, 2009

JEAN LARSON, CLERK

Queries for the Second Month: Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Queries: Are Meetings for Business held in the spirit of Meetings for Worship? In decision making, do we promote a spirit of love, understanding and patience as we seek unity on an appropriate course of action? Do we keep our remarks simple and speak only as the Spirit leads? Are we able to unite in good grace with the Sense of the Meeting when our personal desires tend in another direction? Do we maintain respect for others, however strongly our opinions may differ? Are Meetings for Business seen as positive opportunities for testing and practicing our spiritual life?

Advice: As members, attend the business meetings, and extend our support to the Meeting's affairs, so that the burden will not rest upon a few. In Meetings for Business, and in all duties connected with them, seek the leadings of the Light. Avoid undue persistence. As we release our attachment to our ideas, the Light may reveal solutions none of us has considered. Be willing to admit the possibility of being in error. Remember that the foundation of a lasting decision lies in the search for unity; that is, a corporate seeking of the Light in an atmosphere of love, trust and mutual forbearance. Attenders are warmly invited to attend and participate in Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Have a sense of when to continue to labor on or to lay aside an issue.

MEETING NEWS

A report, about **QUNO** (Quaker United Nations Office) in the current issue of FWCC's bulletin "Friends World News", informs us that the UN Human Rights Council is looking at conscientious objection to military service, which is protected by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Not all states support this position. FWCC had concerns about the Republic of Korea, which has no provisions for conscientious objection, and Canada's deportation of American conscientious objectors to the USA. Columbia, Israel and Turkey have repeatedly imprisoned conscientious objectors but now consider that initial detention can be "arbitrary." For more information about QUNO's work: <http://www.quno.org>

Laura Winefordner

Hospitality: Calling all Helpers!! Mona will be calling meeting members asking for volunteers to take a month between March - August to be responsible for finding persons to do "coffee & surprises" for that month.

*Connie reports from our **SEYM Interim Business Meeting**.....*

Jack Bradin, SEYM Rep to **Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)** reported that the Obama transition team has consulted FCNL 5 times: 2 times about nuclear proliferation, 2 times about Gaza, and 1 time about "An Earth Renewed." (Now, I ask you what other white house team even knew there was an FCNL?)

Book Club: *The Friends Reading Group* is meeting on Sunday March 1 at 4pm, in the Meeting House for tea and discussion. Contact Brian Blackmore, clerk of Reading Group, with questions or concerns.

Ministry & Nurture

Saturday, February 28 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. the **Southeastern Yearly Meeting Discernment Committee on Friends United Meeting** will hold an all day Meeting at Gainesville Meetinghouse for Worship with a Concern for our Affiliation with Friends United Meeting. Members and attenders of our meeting are encouraged to attend for whatever part of the meeting that you can. Contribute to the silence asking for God's leading, listen to others and their insights, and speak out of the silence as you are led by the Spirit to respond to this weighty issue. Hospitality Committee will provide sandwich material for lunch, but the group may wish to go out to eat. This would be a spur-of-the-moment decision.

Hospitality Committee will provide lunch fixings and continuous coffee bar. We ask for donations of fruits and muffin-type items for providing a welcoming "breakfast coffee" as they convene for the day.

Quakerism 101: All are welcome to attend our next session on Sunday, February 8th at 9:15 a.m. in the library of the meetinghouse. We will look into the way Friends do business in Worship with a Concern for Business. Newcomers as well as seasoned Friends can participate in this discussion by asking questions and/or sharing experiences. This discussion will be followed by a little role playing by those who are game, about the "Wade House Takeover Controversy." This should lead to a lively discussion about how Friends solve problems that come up in a meeting and the ways in which Friends can search for the "sense of the meeting." Finally there will be a "lecture/ discussion" on the topic of "Broader Quaker Groups." You can get some good idea of that by observing the bulletin board in the library. Take a look and bring your questions and comments.

Quaker Study Program: Friday, January 30th Tim Ray will facilitate a discussion about early Quaker encounters with American Indians. The booklet for this discussion is "**Peaceful People and First Nations**" by American Friends Service Committee. Since there are only 2 copies in print, one has been purchased which will be copied and placed on the shelf under the clock in the foyer (behind the door to the social room).

Potluck supper will be at 6 pm and the program starts at 7pm.

Friday, February 27: Potluck supper at 6 p.m. Afterward Sybil Brennan will facilitate a discussion on "**Contemporary Quakers with a focus on Tom Gates.**" Tom was a physician at Kimosai Hospital in Kenya for a time. Sybil has handouts she will make available for people to read before the event.

Connie Ray, Ministry

& Nurture Clerk

Around the Meetinghouse ♦ Jean Larson ♦ January 18, 2009

Early January is the time Bart recommended we plant chives, so I put a clump into our special herb pot by the door to the social room earlier this month. It is surviving, but looks a bit pounded by a goodly rain we had last week.

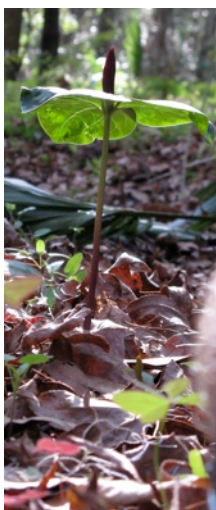
Yesterday, I went to the birdbath with the idea of changing the water to keep it clean. I noticed the surface looked strange and when I gingerly reached out to test it, I discovered a pancake of ice floating on the top. Well, it is winter, but as I walk around the property I keep seeing signs of burgeoning life. The tropical salvia near the bike rack by the big stump keeps on blooming. Some of the plants have red flowers and others white. Mona gathered beautyberry branches loaded with purple berries from the front retention pond and combined them with ferns and white salvia to dress up the tables for the tea following the memorial service for Marylynn Hall. A bud from the rose bush behind the meetinghouse is now visible through the kitchen window while sitting in the social room. Other flowers are scattered here and there: the tickseed (*Coreopsis*) is budding and has a few flowers along the front of the meetinghouse; the dune sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*) is still putting out flowers near the driveway; a lone sneezeweed (*Helenium* spp) popping up in the grass south of our driveway where I had planted several specimens a couple years back. The bedstraw or stickywilly (*Galium aparine*) has flowers in many places, but you have to look closely since they are quite small. Another cool season plant is the Virginia pepperweed (*Lepidium virginicum*). The Wikipedia entry on this member of the mustard family says that young leaves can be boiled for ten minutes or added directly to salads and the young seedpods can be used as a substitute for black pepper.



This month, Bill has been working to remove three exotic invasive plants that may not be so familiar to you. One is Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), a lacy tree climbing fern. Yesterday I showed Bill a specimen we estimated had climbed ten feet up a tree near the pond, and Bill dug out the roots he could find and helped me bag the whole plant. The spores are carried by the wind, so it can appear anywhere. They remain viable for seven years. I showed the plant to Walter who commented on its attractive appearance. Many of the exotic invasives were brought to Florida because they are attractive as landscape plants when they are kept in check, but reproduce so successfully that they displace the native vegetation that supports a web of insects, birds and animals.



Another invasive is Coral ardisia (*Ardisia crenata*) whose bright red berries are lovely



to see at this time of year. A study at the university came up with a 90% germination rate under good conditions, showing the potential for this invader to spread rapidly. Its fleshy roots help it survive a variety of conditions. A third invasive plant Bill is working on at this time of year is Taro (*Colocasia esculenta*), a wild version of a food plant that crowds out wetland plants and makes the wetlands less friendly to the frogs and other creatures that live there.

Recently Bill pointed out an unusual plant with a trio of leaves on one of our walks together around the property. I thought it was so good looking that it surely was an escaped houseplant. When I showed it to Karen Arrington, she said she had seen a native



trillium at the John Mahon Park south of Newberry Road between NW 43rd Street and NW 38th Street. A quick check of the Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants revealed that Spotted wakerobin (*Trillium maculatum*) is the native trillium in our part of Florida. Wunderlin lists all the native trilliums as rare, so I think of this one as a local treasure.

FIRST MONTH 2009 GFM CALENDAR

1/30/09	Fri	6pm	Quaker Study Program
1/31/09	Sat		Great Air Potato Roundup
2/1/09	Sun	9:30am	Library, Hospitality & Meetinghouse Committee meetings
		1pm	Forum: Healthcare
		4pm	Book Group: Cradle to Cradle – Sybil Brennan
2/2/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga
2/3/09	Tues	11:45am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc
2/8/09	Sun	9:15am	Quakerism 101
		1pm	Meeting for Business
		7pm	Concert: Old Time Music with Hunt Smith
2/9/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga
2/10/09	Tues	7pm	GI Rights Hotline
2/15/09	Sun	9:30am	Singing
			Quaker Earthcare Witness
2/16/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga
2/20/09	Fri	7pm	Film Night: The Visitor
2/22/09	Sun	9:30am	Peace and Social Concerns Committee
		1pm	Bible Study
2/23/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga
2/24/09	Tues	7pm	GI Rights Hotline
2/27/09	Fri	6pm	Potluck & Discussion – Tom Gates
2/28/09	Sat	8:30am	SEYM Discernment Committee
3/1/09	Sun	9:30am	Library, Hospitality & Meetinghouse Committee meetings
		1pm	Forum: Healthcare
		4pm	Book Group
3/8/09	Sun	9:30am	Singing
		1pm	Meeting for Business
3/14/09	Sat	6pm	St. Paddy's Day Dinner

Unless noted, meetings are at the Meetinghouse.

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

Old Time Concert February 8th at 7pm

Come spend an evening with Hunt Smith and Allison Aldrich and enjoy an eclectic musical program reflecting the range of skills and experience these two unique musicians bring. Playing guitar, accordion, banjo, fiddle, concertina, and more, these two will present songs, stories, New England and Quebecois dance tunes, and folk music from the British Isles and beyond. Audience participation is encouraged! Allison and Hunt are married and live in Nelson, New Hampshire but their combined experience ranges from classical concert hall to the city streets.

Film Night: Feb 20th at 7pm - “The Visitor” - Walter is an unhappy, disaffected college professor who has been drifting aimlessly through life. Then, unexpectedly during a trip into New York, Walter discovers that a couple from Somalia has taken up residence in his apartment in the city. Very quickly Walter develops an unexpected and profound connection to them that will change his life forever.

