

QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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32605

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

NEWSLETTER, THIRD MONTH, 2009

JEAN LARSON, CLERK

HARMONY WITHIN THE MEETING COMMUNITY

Query: Are love and unity maintained among us?

When differences arise, do we settle them in a spirit of love and humility? Are we careful not to hold an idea too firmly, knowing that another may bring us closer to the truth? Are we patient and considerate towards those we find difficult to understand or like? Do we demonstrate a forgiving spirit? Do we have concern and respect for the reputation of others? When people are hurt, do we take care to hold them up with a tender heart? Do we respect that of God in each person, though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or may be difficult for us to discern?

Advice: Maintain love and unity by avoiding tale bearing and detraction. Settle differences promptly, in a manner free from resentment. When we have a difference with another person, speak to them in private “in the love and wisdom that is gentle and pure”. Be aware that verbal violence can be as destructive as physical violence. Be careful that our language does not incorporate violence, consciously or unconsciously. Listen patiently, and seek the truth another person’s expressions may contain for us. Be willing to seek and willing to receive counsel and help from one another. In our daily lives, seek to know one another in the things that are eternal, and to enter with ready empathy and sensitive discretion into the joys, sorrows and needs of each other. Be mindful that everyone is included in the life and activities of the Meeting.

Ministry & Nurture

Hold in the Light: Heather Passmore, Paul Gagnon and their new twin babies, Adelaide and Malakai.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting Discernment Group on Friends United Meeting: On Saturday, February 28 there will be an all day worship sharing opportunity on the topic of Concern for our Affiliation with Friends United Meeting. Friends are coming from other meetings and we will provide hospitality as needed. 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 asks for donations of fruit and muffin-type items for a welcoming “breakfast coffee” as Friends arrive about 8:30am. The worship sharing is scheduled to begin at 9:00am and end at 4:30pm with a break for lunch. Hospitality will provide sandwich fixings, but the group may decide to go out to eat.

Phoebe Anderson, speaking for the group, said, “The Spirit may open to us new Light.” Come meet and worship with other Friends as we seek our way forward with God’s grace.

Quaker Study Program:

On Friday, February 27 at 6pm we will gather at the meetinghouse for a pot luck dinner and then a discussion on the pamphlet "The Gathered Meeting Revisited" by Tom Gates. **Sybil Brennan** will facilitate the discussion. Please see her for a copy of the pamphlet.

Saturday, March 21 we will gather in Ocala in the home of **Larry and Ellie Clayton** at noon for a pot luck luncheon. Gainesville, Ocala, and possibly Deland Quakers will gather for fellowship and a discussion following the luncheon. **Walter Morris** will facilitate a discussion on the topic "Quaker response to today's dire social problems." Car pooling is encouraged.

"Cotton Club" Restoration Project: Gainesville Friends will be joining other churches and faith communities in the effort to restore an old landmark dance hall in the African American historic pre-integration part of our city. Once this area was a vibrant, separate community and the dance hall symbolizes that lost culture to our African American friends. To further this work, we have scheduled a breakfast fundraiser for Sun. March 29th at 9am. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn and Vivian Filer will join us and speak about this exciting project.

News from Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM): Gathering: April 8 – 12th north of Leesburg at the Methodist Life Enrichment Center. Online registration should be available by February 25. Snail mail will follow as soon as possible. Note that the availability of the form practically coincides with the deadline for registering. Human beings who are volunteers run this organization. Please have patience. The Walton lecturer is **Mary Ellen McNish** from American Friends Service Committee. **Karen Porter** will lead the elementary age group. Volunteers who have been fingerprinted and screened are needed to work with the youth. There will be a "coffee shop" after the Walton Lecture run by the teens. Friends General Conference will have two workshops on outreach and "Quaker Quest." There will be a threshing session on the history of SEYM, an interest group on "Activism" and a Committee on Racism meeting on Saturday at 2:30pm.

Friends Committee for National Legislation: FCNL has suffered greatly in the financial crisis. The Obama transition team has contacted FCNL 5 times: twice to discuss nuclear proliferation, twice to discuss Gaza, and once to discuss "an earth renewed."

Budget Committee: 10 teens have signed up for the teen trip to Nicaragua. People can make a contribution to Pro-Nica with the memo line indicating that it is for the teens' trip.

Connie Ray, Ministry & Nurture Clerk

Forum: Sunday, March 1st, at 1 pm at the Meeting House. The Peace and Social Concerns committee will host a Forum on "Income Inequality, Social Justice, and the Obama Administration: Opportunities for Significant Change and the Obstacles that Lie in the Way."

Around the Meetinghouse ♦ Jean Larson ♦ February 17, 2009

The biggest change around the meetinghouse is the new sign that Jean Chalmers and Bud Brennan arrange to purchase after checking to see that it was legal. I am very pleased that now I can read the Quaker part of the sign as I turn onto NW 38th Street. Bud affixed it to two posts with brackets and painted the posts green to match the lettering on the sign. Various helpers participated in digging out the old sign post, including Jim Porter and Christi, and Bill. You can gauge the depth of the holes for the sign by examining the photograph of Christi up to her waist in the hole. The Peace Pole has been packed away with care until a bright idea occurs to someone about where we should place it.



The hard freezes of the first half of February have cleared out yet further foliage, including leaves from the butterfly milkweed and the cassia behind the meetinghouse. Wendy Wilbur reported in her column in the Gainesville Sun that around Valentine's Day is the time to prune roses, but our rose has not yet been pruned. The chives planted in the enriched soil of the bowl buried in the herb garden have been thriving, and the rosemary, which had some limbs broken off when none of us were present, is now blooming very happily. Mona sectioned off pieces of the thyme that has been expanding rapidly in the herb bed, potted them and gave them away, so that now there is room for a small vegetable patch that the children will plant.

After meeting for worship this past Sunday, Bill alerted people to the blossoms of the yellow jessamine on the fence behind the meetinghouse. We can expect more displays as the smaller vines we planted establish themselves between our recently planted blueberries. Nearby, the buds on the dogwood contributed by Annie and David to mark the occasion of their marriage, has fat buds that look ready to open into flowers any day.



Bill and I took a walk in the woods with John Burton, and we were joined along the way by Christi and Nate. The redbud by the front retention pond is just beginning to bloom. John Burton observed that redbuds are in different stages just around town, with some in full bloom, others with leaves already



appearing and some like ours just beginning to bud out. The large hackberry tree outside the fenced area of the children's yard has yet to put out any leaves, but small hackberries in the woods are putting out delicate, light green leaves.

In the woods to the south of the front retention pond, there is a flatwoods plum, blossoming with white flowers topped with many stamens. You have to admire not only the beauty of the flowers but also the persistence of this tree, whose trunk has been battered. Also putting out delicate green leaves is the swamp dogwood in the floodway near the meeting for worship in nature area. Christi and Nate pointed out a number of raccoon prints in the bare sand near this tree.

There are dead trees on the lot in various stages of returning to the earth. The tree that came down after the passage of Hurricane Fay, whose shallow roots are on display near the grandfather oak, is now at the stage where the trunk is turning into punk. Another one that was pictured in an earlier column is still upright and shows the holes made by birds who are managing the resource to promote the growth of grubs and insects to eat.

The rare trillium is still blooming near the ditch. Bill thinks the flower is about spent. The creek nearby was running quite well, but when I last checked, no fish or tadpoles were visible, as they usually are. As we headed back to the meetinghouse, we admired a profusion of violets blooming in the grass by the west edge of the back retention basin, and John pointed out the yellow jessamine blooming in the nearby woods. Just as the brightness of the yellow flowers in the woods is available to us if we will just look for it, so is the inner Light in each of us ready to be seen.



The Friends Reading Group meets on Sunday, March 1st at 2:30pm, in the Meeting House, for tea and a discussion focused on the book "The Poisonwood Bible" by Barbara Kingsolver. Everyone is welcome! On April 5th: We are examining three short literary works by Flannery O'Connor entitled "Wise Blood", "Everything that Rises Must Converge", and "The Violent Bear it Away". These short stories are compiled into a widely available anthology called "3".

Bible Study: On Sunday March 22nd at 1pm we'll continue our study of the gifts of the spirit in Galatians 5.



CELEBRATE! Friends are invited to join in celebrating the recent addition of two new members to the Meeting: Brian Blackmore and Sandy Lyon. Please come to a welcoming potluck dinner party to be held on Saturday, March 28 at Gary Arthur's house at 1714 NW 11th Rd. in Gainesville off of NW 13th St. (224-5143). We'll gather at 6pm and eat at 6:30pm. Potluck is just that... bring whatever you want, just come!

Film Night: Friday, March 20, at 7 pm at the meeting house. Our film will be "Snow Cake," a moving film about how the death of a young woman hitchhiker in an automobile accident deeply affected the lives of others. (Recommended by Laura Winefordner)
About the film: Sigourney Weaver, Carrie-Anne Moss, and Alan Rickman star in this film about what happens in the aftermath of a young woman's death. Recently released from prison, Alex (Rickman) offers a ride to a hitchhiker, only to have her killed instantly when their car endures a brutal accident. Alex then approaches the girl's mother (a functional autistic woman living in a small Canadian town)—and the events that unfold dramatically change his life and that of others around him.

The **Firstday School** room has been reorganized and straightened up. We would like to do a play or two based on stories of Dr. Seuss, so we need some actors. The Earthcare Witness Committee continues to work with the children each 2nd Sunday, and on February 22nd Sheree Sims plans to explore "The Giving Tree" with the elementary class. We are trying to find a date to take the teens to Flagler Beach for an overnight trip.

From Karen PorterMy home felt blessed for several days after Helen and Chris Hooley had been to visit. "Perhaps holding an opportunity in a home is the Quaker equivalent to taking the sacrament into the home and offering the elements of Holy Communion there. If this be true, then the Quaker sacrament is nothing more nor less than one person offering the whole self to God in the presence of another person." William Taber, "Opportunities," in Walk Worthy of Your Calling



Anniversary Joy

Your anniversary is a time
For sharing your affection;
It's obvious the two of you
Have quite a deep connection!
I/We send glad congratulations
And heartfelt wishes, too,
For joyful happiness and love
In everything you do.

By Joanna Fuchs



Bob and Sheree Sims celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary February 14, 2009!

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Hospitality Committee Coffee and Surprises - People have signed up to find volunteers for Coffee & Surprises from March through October. This list of people will be posted on Monthly Calendar inside the (left) kitchen wall. Gene Beardsley will keep a copy and can be called if anyone needs to check their time. A poster of the volunteer's expected tasks and the particular weeks of the current month will be on a clipboard on the coffee bar. Extra copies of tasks will be in the folder in the library desk to give to each volunteer.

Quaker Market Dinner On Saturday March 14th at 6PM there will be a *St. Patrick's Day dinner*! Cooks are signing up for one Irish recipe they wish to cook. There will be: corned beef/cabbage/potato/carrots with a dessert of bread pudding with whiskey sauce for starters. The cooks will be providing parsnips, cabbage dishes, Colcannon, Irish carrots, soda bread and spice bread....all for the vegetarian's delight. Register in advance with Jean Beardsley or Mona Morris. Suggested donations are adults \$10 and child \$5.

THIRD MONTH 2009 GFM CALENDAR

2/27/09	Fri	6pm	Quaker Study Program – “The Gathered Meeting Revisited”
2/28/09	Sat	8:30am	SEYM Discernment Committee - FUM
3/1/09	Sun	9:30am	Library, Hospitality & Meetinghouse Committee meetings
		1pm	Forum: Poverty & Economic Justice
		2:30pm	Friends Reading Group – “Poisonwood Bible” led by Catherine Puckett
3/2/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga
3/3/09	Tues	11:30pm	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.
3/8/09	Sun	9:30am	Singing
		1pm	Meeting for Business
3/9/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga
3/10/09	Tues	7pm	GI Rights Hotline
3/14/09	Sat	6pm	St. Paddy’s Day Dinner
3/15/09	Sun	9:30am	Singing
		12:30pm	Potluck – Happy Birthday to the Meeting!
		7pm	Quaker Earthcare Witness
3/16/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga
3/20/09	Fri	7pm	Film Night: Snow Cake
			Deadline for registration - SEYM Annual Gathering
3/21/09	Sat	Lunch	Quaker Study Program – in Ocala led by Walter Morris
3/22/09	Sun	9:30am	Peace and Social Concerns Committee
		1pm	Bible Study
3/23/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga
3/24/09	Tues	7pm	GI Rights Hotline
3/28/09	Sat	6pm	Welcoming Party for new members Brian & Sandy at Gary Arthur’s
3/29/09	Sun	9am	Fundraiser Breakfast for the Cotton Club Restoration
		1pm	Teen/adult Fishbowl
3/30/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga
4/5/09	Sun	9:30am	Library, Hospitality & Meetinghouse Committee meetings
			Friends Reading Group – 3 by Flannery O’Conner
4/6/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga
4/8-4/12			SEYM Gathering – Leesburg FL



Unless noted, meetings are at the Meetinghouse.