

QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter Editor:
32605

Annie McPherson
anniemcp@bellsouth.net

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

Phone: 352-372-1070
<http://www.afn.org/~quakers/>

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

NEWSLETTER, FIFTH MONTH, 2009

JEAN LARSON, CLERK

EDUCATION

Query: Do we share our deepest beliefs and values with each other and with our children, while leaving them free to develop as the Spirit may lead them? Does the Meeting give the children loving care, and promote their spiritual life through religious education and other activities? Do we encourage our children's participation in the Meeting's work and cultivate their desire for service to others? How do we educate our members and attenders about the Bible (especially the teachings of Jesus), other spiritual literature, and the history, principles and practices of Friends?

Advice: Seek for ourselves and for our children the full development of God's gifts, which is true education. Realize that education should continue throughout life, and that all should share its opportunities and privileges. Make time for regular personal prayer and worship, and for reading the Bible, Friends' literature, the Faith and Practice, the Queries and Advices, and other sources of spiritual value. Seek truth together in our families and among Friends in shared worship and discussion. Teach by being teachable. Be open to new ideas and approaches. Reach out to that of God in everyone, and endeavor to live out the testimonies of Friends in all the expected and unexpected circumstances of daily life.

Ministry & Nurture

Hold in the Light: Andy and Eleanor Merritt; and Carol Doughty, the daughter of Paul and Polly Doughty, who is suffering from multiple cancers.

Quaker Study Program:

April 24: Brian Blackmore: On Living with a Concern for Gospel Ministry, presentation.

May 29: Walter Morris: "Turnaround: Growing a 21st Century Religious Society of Friends" by Benjamin Lloyd. "Like many Friends, Benjamin Lloyd is deeply concerned about the future of our Religious Society. Why are we diminishing in numbers when we have so much to offer? In this essay, he presents his own creative ideas and encouragement for a reinvigoration of our meeting communities." PHP #387m 31 pp., \$5.

June 13: Beach Day/ QSP at Buskirk home in St. Augustine. Betty Odum/Connie Ray: "Twelve Quakers & God."

Connie Ray, Ministry & Nurture Clerk

From Sybil

AFSC - HAITI MIDWIVES NEED KITS FOR NEWBORNS At the April 19th Business Meeting it was agreed that the Meeting would make up small kits to be assembled on First Day, May 31st. The Haiti midwives give these out to mothers of newborns. We are asking Friends to please donate any of the following by delivering items *now* to the Meeting House. Please participate.

Items Needed: Small/tiny cotton hats, clean receiving blankets, bars of wrapped soap, thin wash cloths, kimono/jacket or wrap for infants, diapers: "**PS**" (Premi-sized) or "**N**" (Newborn) – BIODEGRADABLE

First-day School: Mark your calendars for a remarkable musical class with Gary Arthur on June 14th.

Film Night: Friday 5/15 at 7 pm at the Meetinghouse, will feature "Brick Lane," a film about the continuing struggles of a Bangladesh family who settled in London. The film focuses on the struggle of Nazneen, who came to London in 1980 following an arranged marriage and the need to leave behind her beloved sister and family in Bangladesh. It is a beautiful and powerful film; full of twists and surprises to the end. *Jim Morrison*

Peace & Social Concerns: Peace & Social Concerns Committee will hold its regular meeting on Sunday 4/26 at 9:40 p.m. in the Library at the Meeting House. Anyone interested in going to Penney Farms to volunteer to work on the PET (Personal Energy Transporter) in May should contact Jim Morrison (378-6503). The date will be announced soon after we confirm a time with the project manager.

Forum: Peace and Social Concerns will hold a forum on Sunday 5/3 at 1 p.m. after coffee/snacks. The topic will be the power of the individual and the community to bring about change featuring a video (Global Focus 5) showing the work of 6 individuals dedicated to improving their local environments (in Belgium, Mexico, Russia, Ecuador, Mozambique, and Puerto Rico).

The Friends Reading Group meets on 5/3 at 2:30 p.m. to discuss "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini.

Congratulations to Jim Porter for earning his PhD this May in Mental Health Counseling. He thanks "...everyone in our Meeting for their encouragement, but owes most of his gratitude to his wife, Karen, for support immeasurable. He is already seeing clients in Alachua at Alachua Integrative Medicine and has a location in Gainesville too. The next 'credential' he is interested in seeking is full membership to the Gainesville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends."

Around the Meetinghouse ♦ Jean Larson ♦ April 19, 2009

Today we held meeting for worship outdoors in a space near the end of the driveway where Bud Brennan had cleared the underbrush. On the walk out, we passed the mock orange (*Philadelphus inodorus*) blooming happily along the split rail fence. This shrub likes the alkaline soil in that area. If you know where to look, you will find shoots of passion vine (*Passiflora incarnata*) appearing not far from the mock orange. Last year this plant hosted Zebra Longwing and Gulf Fritillary caterpillars.

A four person team (Bill, Brian, Dick and Jim P) took two trips to move the two benches from the place where previously we held meetings for worship in nature to the new area. Several people brought outdoor chairs from home to sit on. These together with some chairs from the social room meant that all who came had a place to sit. David reminded us of our first meeting for worship on the property sitting not far from this location on tree stumps cut by Bud. The new location has the virtue of being drier than the old location, and unlike that location, is out of the usual path of storm water through the property. It was wonderful to feel the breeze and to hear the bird songs and other sounds of nature.

I was sick during the native plant sale this month, so only bought a few handfuls of flowers which Bill and I planted on Saturday, during the meeting workday. We



weeded together companionably, clearing weeds from the area by our new sign, and noting the reappearance of the dune sunflowers. We pulled lots of hop clover from the bed at the entrance to the parking lot. It has been enriching the soil, and now we added some more red salvia that the butterflies liked so much last year. The native butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and blanket flowers (*Gaillardia grandiflora*) are coming up as well, so there will be a mix of flowers in the area. Near the old stump, we planted twin flowers (*Dyschoriste oblongifolia*), a low growing lavender flower. We planted two clumps of Muhly grass and two *Conradinas* in the

children's yard. It is lovely to see the new goldenrod plants (*Solidago stricta*) growing vigorously by the fence, and to see all the slender trumpet shape flowers on the coral vine. Some of the yellow butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) is growing up again along the fence behind the meetinghouse. It was very popular with the monarch butterflies last year.

The iris having been growing happily in the front retention basin, but somehow we have some yellow iris, which are non-native and possibly invasive. They are not on the Florida list, so they will probably stay unless they show signs of trying to crowd out the native blue ones.



I have been enjoying the Earthcare Witness vegetable garden planted by the children in the sunny spot below the stairs to the social room door. Next time you come by, take a look at the way the plants are growing in their special box.



FIFTH MONTH 2009 GFM CALENDAR

4/25/09	Sat	6 p.m.	Chili Extravaganza
4/26/09	Sun	9:30 p.m.	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
		1 p.m.	Bible Study – the Claytons
4/27/09	Mon	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
5/3/09	Sun	9:30 p.m.	Library, Hospitality & Meetinghouse Committee meetings
		1 p.m.	Forum – Peace and Social Concerns
		2:30 p.m.	Friends Reading Group
5/4/09	Mon	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
5/5/09	Tues	11:30 p.m.	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.
		1 p.m.	Preparing for the Craft Fair
5/11/09	Mon	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
5/12/09	Tues	1 p.m.	Preparing for the Craft Fair
5/15/09	Fri	6 p.m.	Film Night – Brick Lane
5/17/09	Sun	9 p.m.	Breakfast
		9:30 p.m.	Meeting for Business
		12:30 p.m.	Potluck & Quaker Earthcare Witness
5/18/09	Mon	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
5/19/09	Tues	1 p.m.	Preparing for the Craft Fair
5/24/09	Sun	9:30 p.m.	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
		1 p.m.	Bible Study - Claytons
5/26/09	Tues	1 p.m.	Preparing for the Craft Fair
5/29/09	Fri	6 p.m.	Quaker Study Program
5/30/09	Sat	10 p.m.-2 p.m.	Dinner on the Grounds – Picnic & Fundraiser for the Meeting
5/31/09	Sun	12:30 p.m.	Assemble “Newborn Kits” for Haitian midwives
6/2/09	Tues	11:30 p.m.	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.
6/7/09	Sun	9:30 p.m.	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
		1 p.m.	Bible Study – the Claytons
		2:30 p.m.	Friends Reading Group
6/13/09	Sat		Beach Day & Quaker Study Program in St. Augustine

Unless noted, meetings are at the Meetinghouse.

