
QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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

NEWSLETTER, NINTH MONTH, 2009

KAREN PORTER, CLERK

QUERIES for The Ninth Month: Witness

Queries: Do our lives reflect Quaker testimonies? Are we open and responsive to continuing revelation and do we incorporate it in our spiritual life? Is our Quaker witness characterized by humility and a willingness to learn from others? Do we recognize that the Spirit works in the world through us? Does our witness lead us to the condition in which we “walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone”? Do we as a Meeting try to share in the religious life of our wider community, availing ourselves of opportunities for worship and service with other local religious groups?

Advice: Strive to keep true to the testimonies of integrity and simplicity. Try to keep before us the essential truths, and test our life by them. Endeavor to make our lives consistent with the high principles we profess. This involves the often-difficult discernment not only between good and evil, but also between the better and the best. Live adventurously. Let not failure discourage us. Witness so that others can perceive the presence of God within us. “Be as good as people think you are.” *

* Quotation from E. St. John (Jack) Catchpool

Ministry & Nurture

Hold in the Light Arnold Von der Porten who is still recovering from his broken shoulder, and the Allee family: Bonner, Mary and Susan

Quaker Study Program: On Friday **August 28th** potluck supper at 6pm followed by a discussion on the pamphlet, "Quaker Witness as Sacrament" by Daniel O. Snyder."

Friday, **September 25th** we will meet at the meetinghouse for a pot luck supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by a discussion of the pamphlet "Invitation to a Deeper Communion," by Marcelle Martin, who was this year's Michener Lecturer.

"Early Friends experienced an extraordinary sense of divine power and presence in their meetings for worship that transformed them inwardly and outwardly, making them agents for significant change. The author examines what it was about their beliefs and practice that invited direct experience of the Spirit. She also describes explorations by contemporary Friends to seek a deeper communion with God in Worship, suggesting that a renewal of worship will help Friends today become powerful witnesses to another way of life." - Pendle Hill

Friday, **October 23rd** we will have a presentation by Davida Johns on ProNica. Bring money. She will have indigenous crafts for you to purchase.

Welcome to Hell We have a new book in our library at the meetinghouse recommended by Susan Cary. The book has two parts: a case history of a man executed whose guilt was questionable, including a strong indictment of capital punishment by his lawyer; and then letters written by prisoners on death row to members of Lifeline, an organization of pen friends. The letters vividly convey daily life on death row, including cockroach races and repairing a typewriter with rubber bands and a toothbrush. There are emotionally powerful statements about facing execution as well. The personal histories of the prisoners are told, including some abusive childhoods.

Sister Prejean writes, "This is a book that speaks from the heart to the heart. Hopes, fears, anguish, desolation, anger – they're all here. There isn't a page that doesn't make us laugh, cry, or shout."

Meeting News: *Stephanie Rossiter Vallee*, a member of our meeting who lives in Belleview, has given birth to Savannah Addison Vallee on Saturday, August 15th. Mother, baby, and father, Derek, are all doing fine, except that Stephanie is very tired. (It was a twelve hour delivery.)

Words to Contemplate: "... as everyone is thus gathered, and so met inwardly in their spirits, as wel (sic) as outwardly in their persons, ... no man here limits the Spirit of God, nor bringeth forth his own conned and gathered stuff ... as our worship consisteth not in the words, so neither in silence as silence; but in an holy dependence of the mind upon God." Robert Barclay, Apology, 1677.

Connie Ray, Ministry & Nurture Clerk

Friendly Reading Group: September, no Reading Group - meet with Quaker Study Group. We are looking for discussion leaders for January and February. If you have a favorite book with "redeeming social value" that you would like to discuss with the group, please volunteer! Contact Sandy Lyon, clerk of the Friendly Reading Group or Betty Odum, clerk of the Library Committee.
Betty Odum

Hospitality: The hospitality committee appreciates everyone's generosity in bringing in finger food and requests that you take home leftovers and dishes. This makes it easier for those who are working in the kitchen. When you take home your leftovers and dishes, the KP crew does not have to find a way to store them or throw them away. The hospitality committee will also be saved the trouble of smelling for freshness, checking expiration dates, and cleaning out the refrigerator every week. Finger food is so much easier to prepare and to clean up after. You see, when Mona is away, we want to make our life as easy as possible. Maybe we are just plain lazy.... The third First Day is Potluck Day! Yeah! This is the time to bring your most delicious cooked dishes, which we will eat in a civilized manner with forks, spoons, and knives. ***The hospitality committee also requests that any foods that contain raw milk be labeled as such.***

(Jeannie Buskirk, acting Clerk)

FORUM: August 30, 12:45 pm, at the Meeting House. Topic: Health Care and the inside story of how private insurance companies operate and the basic conflict of interest between profits and providing health care. Featuring Bill Moyer's interview (May 31) with Wendell Potter, former VP of health insurance giant, Cigna.

FORUM: September 6, 12:45 pm, at the Meeting House. Topic: The real cost of consumption, featuring "The Story of Stuff," and Bill Moyers interview with Daniel Goleman, author of the book, Ecological Intelligence.

Film Night: Friday, September 18th, at 7 pm at the Meeting House. We will show "The Last Word," a different and intriguing love story about a socially isolated young poet who makes his living by writing made-to-order poems for people who are about to die so that they are able to leave behind something meaningful ("in their own words") for their families.

Yoga: Yoga is starting again! Details during announcements after worship or call Gary at 224 5143.

*Greetings from Tom and Carol
Clark....*

Our garden pictures!



Around the Meetinghouse ♦



The rains this month have brought flowers to bloom around the meetinghouse. The firebush planted by Tracy Jeshow is showing its colors by the snag out front which is now covered in vines with a trumpet flower or two visible above. Nearby are salvias in pink, in red, in white showing off their delicate flowers. Across the way, the blanket flowers are slowing down, and a few ironweeds (*Vernonia gigantea*) are turning to seed after attracting lots of different kinds of bees. Almost hidden below them is a native butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*).

At the exterior door to the first day school room, are hyssop skullcaps (also known as helmet skullcap or *Scutellaria integrifolia*). I planted them before the August 1 memorial service for Carol Doughty. Their lovely blue flowers have been enjoyable now for weeks; I hope they will reseed themselves.

For the last three weeks, Alan Sawyer has been helping by mowing the lawn, edging the curb along the front of the meetinghouse and cleaning up the weeds behind the meetinghouse. Bud's rose bush continues to give us pleasure with lots of beautiful roses. The yellow tropical milkweed from Gary Arthur is full of leaves again and has some flowers as well. Today I saw a pair of monarch butterflies checking them out.



Fruits of Hearts abustin' with love

The heart's abustin' with love bush (*Euonymus americanus*) in the front retention pond has bloomed and some of its dark red seed capsules have opened to show off the light red heart shaped seeds hanging down. Some of the ragweed there is getting ready to bloom. Bill and I saw, while walking along the path near below the large oak on the west side of the front retention pond in the depression, a beautiful ironweed in full bloom.

Along the north boundary of the back retention pond, Bill and I planted a dozen or so Fakahatchee grasses (*Tripsacum dactyloides*). We hope the long roots of this native grass will help stabilize the bank and look good at the same time.

Two weeks ago when I went to clean the bird bath and check on

Marylynn's tree, I saw that it was being defoliated by caterpillars of two kinds. One kind is the red humped caterpillar (*Schizura concinna*) with a red head, red hump on the third segment with black stiff yellow and white striped body with black accents, but the red ridge does not match up. The other kind is a saddleback caterpillar with impressive spines which have "urticating hairs" that secrete an irritating venom. The saddleback caterpillar is much more interesting in appearance than the moth that its adult form; no wonder its common name is saddleback caterpillar moth (*Acharia stimulea*, formerly *Sibine stimulea*). *Urtica* is the plant



Red hump caterpillar



Saddleback Caterpillar

genus of nettles and stinging nettles is the example from which the term arises. The Atlas of Florida Vascular

Plants lists two species in Alachua County, the Florida native heartleaf nettle (*Urtica chamaedryoides*) and the European stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*); I have not encountered nettles on the meetinghouse property, but we do have Tread softly (*Cnidioscolus stimulosus*) with its stinging hairs. Watch out for this member of the Euphorbiaceae family, especially in the shady parking areas with little or no grass.

I have been weeding various beds around the meetinghouse and noticed that we have lots of fiddler's spurge (*Poinsettia heterophylla*) which may not look so much like the holiday plant, but does have similar flowers and some of its leaf bracts have diamond shaped purple spots. The other common Florida native, painted leaf (*Poinsettia cyathophora*) has pink or bright red on the bracts around the flowers, making it look more like the commercial poinsettia. Today I noticed that one growing up by a



fiddler's spurge (*Poinsettia heterophylla*)

sweet bay magnolia on the west side of the back retention pond is as tall. I pulled several out a couple weeks ago near this tree to give the yellow top (*Flaveria linearis*) more room and it has responded by setting lovely yellow buds. Next to it, I had planted softhair coneflower (*Rudbeckia mollis*); it had grown leggy in competition with the weeds and was floppy with flowers. This month I have been blessed with sighting an owl, a box turtle, a sleeping snake, a green tree frog, tadpoles in the creek, lots of butterflies, dragonflies, bees, and some mosquitos as well.

From Betty

On September 1, 2008, thousands took to the streets of St. Paul to challenge the Republican National Convention. They are still facing serious legal repercussions because of their organizing. Authorities typically charge a few activists who take to the streets - this time, they went after the people who fed and housed protesters in the days before. We are asking people across the country to take a few minutes on Tuesday, September 1 - the one-year anniversary of the RNC resistance - to contact Susan Gaertner:

651-266-3222 or 651-645-2010 | Fax: 651-266-3010 | RCA@co.ramsey.mn.us or info@susangaertner.com. Let us know if you made a call or email by contacting us at info@rnc8.org

Tell her to DROP THE CHARGES! It's been a full year of dragging community members through the mud, wasted taxpayer dollars, and embarrassment for Susan's campaign. Enough is enough!

Eryn Trimmer, grandson of Betty Odum and Morrie Trimmer, is one of the eight.

For further information go to their website: RNC8.org

Hello! I am a **Friend from Putney, VT**, raised in Iowa Yearly Meeting (C). I will be traveling to Gainesville in mid-September for the first of several intensives as I begin a Masters in Acupuncture program at the Academy for Five Element Acupuncture. I look forward to connecting with the Quaker community. I am currently looking for accommodations. *Is there anyone in the Meeting who has space available in exchange for a low rent?* Each intensive is two-three weeks in length. I will be in Florida in September, February, and May. Some of you may know John Calvi, a member of Putney Meeting, and a member of my support committee. Thank you for your assistance! Sincerely, Lucy Marsh 802-451-1920

My Yearly Meeting Experience: Part 4 - The Weekend by Cheryl Demers-Holton

Saturday morning opened with the thought, “The wind blows where it will” and the plenary session had that quality of up and down. The treasurer tells us we have a \$1538.00 deficit. Then Phoebe Anderson happily announces the Savannah Meeting is now a monthly meeting. Davida Johns report from ProNica tells us they are having the same financial worries we are hearing everywhere. Sheree Sims wonders if Gainesville Meeting might have a Dinner for the ProNica feed the children fund. The business of adults was happily interrupted by young Friends' epistle. This year it was a puppet show of Jack and the Beanstalk, Quaker style the story was familiar but no one was hurt and everyone became friends in the end.

Saturday afternoon was devoted solely to the question of our affiliation with FUM. There was Worship and some sharing. The 1 ½ hour plenary session went quickly and seemed to end abruptly with many Friends remaining to thresh among themselves in small groups. There was also a great deal of threshing from Saturday to Sunday....much of it done on benches, waiting for haircuts (with the chance to donate to ProNica).

On Sunday morning a minute came forward which loosely stated “the minute of '07 could not be honored because it held a future body accountable and it was not felt that that was particularly right ordered”. The second part stated that “membership would remain suspended, that SEYM remains in unity against the personnel policy but are not in unity about the membership to FUM”. The opening seems to be to see what love will do.

The teen's epistle informed us of the HIPPP program, which is an alternative to violence project geared at teens. We also heard about counter recruitment and the dos and don'ts for their trip to Nicaragua. They reported that they had raised \$611.00, just at yearly meeting, and offered folks a chance to continue their support with what was left on their table.

Next year, Catherine Puckett and Karen and Jim Porter will be helping with young friends, as they did this year. Gary will again assist the Clerk in service of the Yearly Meeting. I will be blessed to have the chance to offer pastoral care to the meeting as a member of Ministry and Worship. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Friendly Singing: 9:30 am on September 20th around the piano in the meetinghouse. We are exploring the hymnal each third Sunday, sharing our favorites and trying out ones that look interesting. In August Sandy shared a great song for singing while you work. Jean has a Christmas carol she first heard at Madison Friends Meeting that she wants to share so we can sing it together in December.

Peace & Social Concerns: The Peace and Social Concerns Committee will meet on Sunday, September 27, at 9:40 in the Meeting House Library.



NINTH MONTH 2009 GFM CALENDAR

Worship 11am First Day (Sunday)

Unless noted, meetings are at the Meetinghouse

8/28/09	Fri	6pm	Quaker Study Program—Quaker Witness as Sacrament
8/30/00	Sun	12:45pm	Forum – Health Care
9/2/09	Tues	11:30am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.
9/4-9/7	Fri-Mon		Beach Day for Wee Friends
9/6/09	Sun	9:30am	Library Committee
		12:45pm	Forum – Story of Stuff
9/11/09	Fri	4-7:30pm	Parents Night Out
9/13/09	Sun	12:45pm	Meeting for Business
9/18/09	Fri	7pm	Film – The Last Word
9/20/09	Sun	9:30am	Singing
	After rise of Meeting		Potluck
9/25/09	Fri	6pm	Quaker Study Program – Invitation to a Deeper Communion
9/27/09	Sun	9:40am	Peace & Social Concerns Committee
		12:45pm	Bible Study
10/2/09	Sun	9:30am	Library Committee
10/6/09	Tues	11:30am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.

From Karen .. Sherre Sims is organizing a Wee Friends Beach Day September 4th -7th at the Winefordner's.