

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, SECOND MONTH, 2011

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.

Ministry & Nurture

Please Hold in the Light: Morrie Trimmer, Marie and Dave Parsons, Eleanor and Andy Merritt

Meeting news:

Ministry and Nurture Committee have met at **Morrie's** house this month and will continue to do so for a few months.

Marie and Dave Parsons are regular attenders at the Ocala Worship Group. **Marie** comes to Gainesville to worship with us once a month. **Marie and Dave** are members of the Rochester Meeting in New York.

Anastasia Vey, granddaughter of member **Christine Rossiter**, has grown to 1 lb. 14oz. and is making good progress. Christine appreciates all the good thoughts and prayers.

Wedding: On Sunday, May 29th **Morrie Trimmer and Betty Odum's** grandson, **Elliot Campbell**, and **Smiti Nepal** will be married under the care of Westerly Monthly Meeting, Rhode Island, at the Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. The wedding "will be a combination of both our heritages, Hinduism and Quakerism," and will start at 6 p.m. Go to their website, <http://www.theknot.com/ourwedding/SmitiNepal&ElliotCampbell>, for more information and beautiful pictures.

Reminder: In worship please remember to stand when you give your message. Some people are hard of hearing, and need to know where to look to hear correctly. Others who have been moved to speak can see that another is about to speak, and know to wait for a while.

Words to Contemplate: “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” (Galatians 6:13, KJV) “. . . for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, ‘ I will dwell in them; and I will be their God and they shall be my people.’” (2 Corinthians 6: 16, KJV)

“And what can be the proper and full rule of God’s sons and daughters, but the light of the spirit of life, which they receive from the Father? . . . they need no man to teach them; but have the spirit of prophecy in themselves, and quick living teachings from him continually . . . in the light wherein they live, and not by any outward rule.” - Isaac Pennington “Some Positions” The Way of Life and Death 1658; The Works of Isaac Pennington, v. I (Glenside, PA: Quaker Heritage Press, 1995) p. 28

Friendly Reading Group: *Sandy Lyon, Clerk*



The Friendly Reading Group meets immediately after fellowship following worship on the third First Day of each month from 1-2 PM. On February 20th Arnold Von der Porten will share some of his stories with us. Copies of the stories are available in the library as well as copies of his books, *The Nine Lives of Arnold* and *50 Years in America*. The March 20th meeting will be *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. This novel is based on a true story about the history (1480-2002) of the *Sarajevo Haggadah*, a priceless and rare Jewish book that is passed down through generations. With historical grandeur and emotional intensity, it tells the story of each generation. Betty Odum and Carol Clark will lead the discussion. Copies of the book are available in the library. We have changed the schedule for April 17th to accommodate a wonderful opportunity. We will discuss the book *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans and the Myth of Racial Justice*. The authors are Vanessa Julye and Donna McDaniel who will be the speakers at the yearly meeting gathering the following week. We will finish out the year on May 15th with *Blade Runner* (Do Droids Dream of Electric Sheep) by Philip K. Dick. This classic work of science fiction explores what it means to be human. It was required reading for all incoming classmen at Cornell University. You do not need to read any of the books to attend. The Friendly Reading Group is good way to expand your reading choices and explore books or writings you might otherwise have not chosen.

Yoga: Mondays at 6pm in the meetinghouse.

Film Night: Our film this month will be "Letters to Juliet" on Friday, February 18, at 7 pm at the Meeting House. In the spirit of Valentine's Day, this is a delightful romantic comedy set in Italy about a woman's search for a man she met 50 years earlier. She is led by a determined younger woman, who lives her own love story in the process...Beautiful scenery, interesting characters, and just fun to watch.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee will meet on February 27 at 9:40 am in the Meetinghouse Library.

Second Month 2011 GFM CALENDAR

Worship 11am First Day (Sunday)

Unless noted, meetings are at the Meetinghouse

1/30/11	Sun	1pm	Forum: Answering the Call to Heal the World
1/31/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
2/1/11	Tues	11:30am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.
2/6/11	Sun	9:30am	Library & Hospitality Committees
		1pm	Forum: End of Life Choices
2/7/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
2/12/11	Sat	6pm	Chinese Dinner & Auction
2/13/11	Sun	1pm	Meeting for Business
2/14/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
2/18/11	Fri	7pm	Film Night: Letters to Juliet
2/20/11		12:30am	Potluck
		1pm	Friendly Reading Group
2/26/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
2/27/11	Sun	9:40am	Peace & Social Concerns Committee
		12:45pm	Bible Study
3/12/11	Sat	6pm	St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Forum: On Sunday, February 6, at 1 pm in the Meeting House Social room Cheryl Demers-Holton will make a presentation about "End of Life Choices.

Job Announcement: PUBLICITY CLERK* This person is responsible for disseminating information about events related to the Meeting and/or of interest to the Meeting within the larger community. Such dissemination will be through print media, radio, mail, the internet and phone calls. Using Facebook and social media will be explored.

*Meeting is looking for a person who could be this clerk. It is felt that such a person over time would develop a rapport with media persons better than if one person for each media event tried making media contacts. This person would create a referral file that committee clerks could use to be assured that all information is concise and accurate. [This could possibly become a paid position for a few hours per week].

Chinese Dinner and Auction on Sat. Feb. 12th at 6pm. Potluck Chinese dinner followed by an auction to benefit Pro-Nica and Guatemala Scholarship funds. Items can be brought and stored in the alcove by the bathrooms and under the pine table in social room.

St. Patrick's Day Quaker Dinner on March 12th at 6pm. Please sign-up in social room so we can plan the menu. Ideas for after-dinner entertainment are being solicited. See Sheree Sims or Mona M.

In hopes that more members may attend **Worship With a Concern for Business** if the Agenda were known ahead (rather than at Meeting time), we will post the agenda for the next few newsletters hoping for positive results'

AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 13TH (at 1 PM)

☀ Queries for 2nd Month

☀ Adjustments to Agenda-please feel free to add by notifying Clerk.

☀ Committee Reports: Treasurer's Report, Ministry and Nurture, Peace & Social Concerns (focus for 2011 & making contacts for community gardening as a year-long project), Fund Raising Committee (concert report & fund raising letter & SEYM apportionment revisited), Meetinghouse, Building and Landscaping, Library, First Day School (finding a clerk & curriculum sharing), Hospitality (work day yearly schedule).

☀ Old Business - Finding a Publicity Coordinator

☀ New Business - Upcoming Wedding

From SEYM secretary Lyn ... One of the blogs I read now and then is that of the BAD QUAKERS—enjoyed by many of who are involved in QUIP, QUF, etc

<http://badquakerbible.blogspot.com/2011/01/let-justice-roll-down-like-waters.html>

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting held the first of several events celebrating their 75th anniversary. Paul Tinkerhess, AAFM singer-songwriter, wrote and performed this song for the occasion. That's his son Eric on cello: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTiXtz6e0-Q> Eldon Hamm (mentioned in the song) is, I'm pretty sure, the oldest & longest-tenured living & active AAFM-er. He and his (now-deceased) wife raised their family in AAFM.... he's a somewhat cantankerous, unorthodox Friend, who just finally asked for membership a couple of years ago...delightful guy... I especially like the chorus:

And so we meet again, this fam'ly of Friends
We gather together
Silently we begin, wait on the spirit
Sit still so you hear it

Settle your restless mind, sit in the silence
The spirit will find us
Love, light us within
As we continue to kindle the kindness

From the Mennonites.. Islam on Campus is proud to present Islam Awareness Month for February 2011. On February 1 and 2 (Tuesday and Wednesday), there will be an Islam Fair at the Reitz Union Colonnade from 10 am to 3 pm. Features include the following:

- Henna and Arabic/Persian calligraphy: Your name can be written in Arabic!
- Ethnic food: pita bread, hummus, grape leaves and surprises!
- Tie Dye hijabs: You can wear a headscarf after tie dying it!
- Trying on hijabs: We'll take a picture of you with a beautiful scarf on
- Jump with a Muslim before jumping to conclusions: jump rope
- Hop scotch in Arabic numerals: Don't worry, we'll teach you!
- Cricket trivia game
- Interfaith book club: We will have a selection of books and hope to initiate a book club with interested individuals
- Famous Muslims posters
- Open mic question booth: Ask questions about Islam from an Islamic Studies professor at UF

Please join us! For more information, please visit www.islamoncampus.com As always, all events are FREE!!