

QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Meeting Place: 702 NW 38th St., Gainesville, Fla. 32605

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

Clerk: Annie McPherson
anniemcp@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER, SIXTH MONTH, 2011

Queries and Advices can provide an opportunity for a corporate discipline of paying attention to what God might have to teach us.

The Quaker Way of Discussing Business

- ❖ Are we prepared to let go of our individual desires and let the Holy Spirit lead us to unity?
- ❖ Do we recognize that the search for unity may require us to accept with good grace a decision of the Meeting with which we are not entirely in agreement?
- ❖ Proceed in the peaceable spirit of the light of Truth, with forbearance and warm affection for each other. Be willing to wait upon God as long as may be necessary for the emergence of a decision which clearly recommends itself as the right one.
- ❖ Feel free to express views, but refrain from pressing them unduly. Guard against contentiousness, obstinacy and love of power. Admit the possibility of being in error. In Meetings for Business, and in all duties connected with them, seek the leadings of the Light.
- ❖ Be aware that excessively long offerings, where one outruns a leading, unnecessarily consumes the time of many.
- ❖ Try to speak once to an issue. If a Friend has "spoken your mind", simply note this. At the time the Clerk places an issue before the Meeting, you will then have an opportunity to voice your "I approve".

Ministry & Nurture

Please Hold in the Light: Tom Clark, Marie and Dave Parsons, Eleanor and Andy Merritt

Sunday Forum on May 29th will be hosted by the Ministry and Worship Committee. The topic has not yet been selected, but there was an expressed interest in revisiting the booklet, "Answering the Call to Heal the World" by Patience Schemck. **Walter Morris** led a discussion of this booklet in January.

Sunday, June 5th Forum: On Sunday, June 5th at 1pm there will be a forum held by the Ministry and Nurture Committee to discuss the ideas that were presented and discussed at the "Nuts and Bolts of Quakerism" retreat held on May 7th. The committee hopes that we will be able to reformat our Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business.

Beach Day, Saturday June 11th: Jeannie and Phil Buskirk welcome us to their home in St. Augustine for a day of fun and an evening of thoughtful discussion. Come as early as you can. Drop off your food (and clothes if you wish), go to the beach or visit other sites, and come back for fellowship. Our pot-luck dinner will be at 4:30. Gather for a discussion of the Quaker Quest booklet "Twelve Quakers and Jesus" at 5:30. Booklets are in the foyer on the bookcase under the clock. Envelopes are provided for a \$5 donation to the meeting, if you are able.

Words to Contemplate: “The early Quaker doctrine of ‘perfection’ grabs my attention. It promises healing of the wounds which left me so full of hidden fear. Often I use the term ‘spiritual maturity,’ a term which captures some of the meaning of the Greek word *teleios*, when I try to understand Jesus’ call in Matthew 5:48: ‘Be ye perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect’ (KJV) . . . What speaks to me about perfection is the thought that the Greek term used in the Bible for ‘perfection’ is more about coming to completion or wholeness. . . To become ‘perfect’ as Jesus meant is a process of growing into a maturity of spirit visible in our actions . . . (I)t is a state of being open to God’s love flowing through us to others,” – Margery Post Abbott, To Be Broken and Tender – a Quaker theology for today, pages 56 and 57, Friends Bulletin Corp. 2010

In Case of Emergency..... The Ministry and Nurture Committee is updating the Emergency Contact Information and Requests to Monthly Meeting about Incapacity or Death (SEYM Dying, Death, and Bereavement) forms for members and regular attenders. We would like to have Emergency Contact Information for everyone. Additionally, if you would like to fill out the SEYM Dying, Death, and Bereavement Form, the meeting will be able to follow through on your requests at the end of your life. The Emergency Contact Form will be kept in a file in the library where it will be readily accessible. The SEYM form will be kept in a sealed envelope and not readily accessible. Both forms will be available in the fellowship room. Please give completed forms to either Sandy Lyon or Connie Ray.

Yoga: Mondays at 6pm in the meetinghouse. No classes in July and August.

Film Night: Friday June 17th at 7 pm at the Meeting House we will show "Inside Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think". Inside Islam explores the expertly gathered opinions of tens of thousands of Muslims around the globe as revealed in the world’s first major opinion poll, conducted by Gallup. The poll became a window into the hearts and minds of ordinary Muslims across the world, a way to understand what they think and why. The Muslims interviewed were asked such questions as “Why is there so much anti-Americanism in the Muslim world? Who are the extremists? What do Muslims like and dislike about the West? What do Muslim women really want?”

Friendly Lunch: No Friendly Lunch in July.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee meets at 9:40 am on Sunday, June 26, at the Meeting House.

Sixth Month 2011 GFM CALENDAR

Worship 11am First Day (Sunday)

Unless noted, meetings are at the Meetinghouse

5/29/11	Sun	1pm	Forum: Ministry & Nurture
		6pm	Wedding at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
6/5/11	Sun	9:30am	Library & Building/Grounds/Landscaping Committees
		1pm	Forum: Our Meeting Retreat Revisited: Quaker Business Practice
6/6/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
6/7/11	Tues	11:30am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.
6/10/11		10am	First Day School Committee
6/11/11	Sat	10am	Beltram Peace Center Discussion Series at Mennonite Meeting House
		4:30pm	Beach Day in St. Augustine & Potluck at 4:30pm at the Buskirk's
6/12/11	Sun	9:30am	Hospitality Committee
		1pm	Meeting for Business
6/13/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
6/17/11	Fri	7pm	Film Night: The Radical
6/19/11	Sun	9:30am	Singing
		12:30pm	Potluck
6/20/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
6/25/11	Sat	10am	Beltram Peace Center Discussion Series at Mennonite Meeting House
6/26/11	Sun	9:40am	Peace & Social Concerns Committee
6/25/11		12:40pm	Bible Study
6/27/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
7/3/11	Sun	9:30am	Library & Building/Grounds/Landscaping Committees
		1pm	Forum: Islam - Questions & Answers
8/20/11	Sat		Betty Odum's Moving Sale

Beltram Peace Center You are invited to participate in a discussion series on interfaith relationships, beginning Saturday, May 28, and continuing on second and fourth Saturdays through the summer. We will meet from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Avenue. Eve MacMaster and Don Smith will provide leadership. The basis for our discussion will be THE FAITH CLUB, by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner. The first session will introduce the authors and their vision. We have copies for a suggested donation of \$12.00, which you can pick up from me (Eve) by appointment. The book is a memoir of spiritual reflections in three voices, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim, that grew from real life interfaith conversations. *Sponsored by the Beltram Peace Center & the Gainesville Fellowship of Reconciliation*

Freedom Riders/Freedom Walkers: Jean Larson brought us a calendar from Berkeley Meeting that has short Quaker stories. As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Rides, here is another story to remember:

On Wednesday, May 16, 1838, just two days after the new, abolitionist built Pennsylvania Hall had been dedicated, the second Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women, organized by **Lucretia Mott**, met there.

Bricks and rocks were thrown through the windows. Lucretia had each black woman walk out arm in arm with a white woman. They were met with insults and more rocks.

The next day the keys to the building were publically turned over to the mayor under a promise of protection. Once he left, a crowd of 12–15 thousand broke in, destroyed everything and set the building on fire. (no citation for crowd estimate given) “On to Mott’s house,” the crowd cried. A quick-thinking friend, pretending to be part of the mob, led them in the wrong direction.

As we remember one set of brave, determined people, let us also be mindful of others who were injured and humiliated working for freedom.



A Walk in the Quaker Woods ♦ Jean Larson ♦ May 2011

Photographs by Bill Mitchell

After an absence of around six weeks, Bill and I returned to Gainesville. On my first visit to the meeting property on May 10 to gather some rosemary for roast chicken, Bud pointed out that the passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*) near the meeting for worship room had sprouted from many places and was flowering. Later Gary moved the vine so it would climb the



cherry laurels nearby in its search for the sun.

I admired the planting of the slope in front of the meetinghouse which is being watered by a system of soaker hoses on a timer set up by Bud. At the top around the peace pole is Georgia calamintha (*Georgia calamintha*), which is a mint native to the eastern panhandle of Florida. Along the top of the slope is rose mock vervain (*Glandularia canadensis*) in the widely available cultivar Homestead purple. Rose mock vervain is native to Alachua County. Tucked into spaces between and below the rocks are blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium augustifolia* or *Sisyrinchium xerophyllum*) and below are powderpuff (*Mimosa strigliossa*), a low growing plant with pink puffs of flowers, both native to Alachua County. They are both in the iris family, the first is widely available and usually occurring in wetlands, while the second is not widely available and is native to well-drained sandy uplands.

On May 14, Bill and I spotted a snapping turtle in the first pool of water we came across as we walked up the dry creek bed. Very likely she was traveling through looking for a good place to lay eggs.

That evening it rained a much welcome rain (I had watered the wilting tropical salvia, royal fern, red anise, mock orange earlier in the week), and on our after meeting walk the next day, the creek was flowing.



The dead Chinese tallow at the top of the drainage ditch has finally toppled, probably nudged by the wind and rushing water of the storm after a substantial dry spell. Downstream only three of the river oats also known as Indian wood oats (*Chasmanthium latifolia*) still survive.



dune sunflower, rose mock vervain. We counted petals and sepals, pulled apart the petunia blossom to see the pistil and stamens in the tube formed by the fused petals, noticed the similarities between the petunia and the tomato flower.

I joined the children in first day school on May 15. Malakai, Addie, Ella, Sandy and I picked some of flowers: a petunia, squash blossom, tomato flower and marigold from the vegetable garden; a purple cone flower, cluster of elderberry flowers, blanket flower,



Palmetto Flowers

We

observed the sepals are still present on the tomato, pepper and eggplant, and saw similar structures inside when we cut a cross-section through these vegetables (technically these are fruit). Sandy pulled up a potato plant with medium/small redskin potatoes. The petunia, eggplant, tomato and potato are all in the solanaceae family, whose flowers typically have 5 sepals, 5 fused petals, 5 stamens and a pistil with 2 chambers. I enjoyed my time in first day school and encourage you to think about spending 15 minutes or an hour sharing something special to you with our young folks.

Other flowers blooming this month include Stokes aster (*Stokesia laevis*) native to scattered panhandle and northeast Florida counties, palmetto in woods, coral honeysuckle on the fence in the children's yard, and coreopsis along the ramp up in front of the meetinghouse. I have started to weed the newly planted slope in front of the meetinghouse to keep it tidy and welcoming to the new plants we have put in.

From our Outgoing Clerk ... Our meeting has been struggling with issues around how we do business and difficulties with our monthly business meetings, our Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. After heartfelt searching, our Clerk Mona Morris felt that Friends wanted more understanding about Quaker guidelines and beliefs with regard to business meeting. There were and are a variety of understandings and levels of experience with Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business and Quaker business practices. Especially, how to arrive at decisions in a caring connected way. Out of that concern, our Clerk sent our Ministry & Nurture Committee a request to consider a meeting retreat and they did schedule one, with Phoebe Andersen of Tallahassee meeting, on May 7th to consider these topics. It was a well attended and many excellent ideas came out of that gathering.

In the retreat, helpful ways to make our business meetings (or Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business) more worshipful, more orderly, more enjoyable and less tedious were explored. Understanding how our Meeting committees work, what and when business is brought to the Meeting as a whole and bringing things to business meeting after careful discernment was discussed. Also explored was good use of time and keeping meetings from becoming tedious. The Retreat ended by Phoebe encouraging us to consider making some changes to achieve both Worship and Business while staying in unity with the Spirit. Very practical suggestions and clear guidelines were shared.

The forum on June 5th will be reviewing and responding to points to consider and possibly thinking about changes we could make to strengthen our business process.

Forum: Sunday June 5th at 1pm Our Meeting Retreat Revisited: How We Do Business. We will be looking at ways to make the way we conduct business more worshipful, more efficient and more enjoyable.... great for learning the workings of committees and putting Quaker process in practice. (See above)

Sunday July 3rd at 1 pm: "Islam: Questions and Answers" a 35 minute documentary film followed by discussion.

Moving Sale: On Saturday, August 20th from 8am until noon we will hold a moving sale at Betty Odum's home, with the proceeds going to the Meeting. We thank Betty for this opportunity, and we ask for lots of help. We will need people to help organize the sale on Friday August 19th and at the sale on the next day. Please contact Laura 372-3972 or laurawine34@gmail.com and also a sign-up sheet will be at the meetinghouse. *Hooray for the proverb: many hands make light work!*



First Day School: We were learning about The Bible today and talked about Paul's letter to his friends in Ephesus. The Young Friends wrote the following letter to their friends in Delaware: **Miss You!**



Dear Kieren and Brendan, We are at Quaker Meeting house. We harvested vegetables (potatoes, a tomato, and some onions. We all miss you. There is a new little boy, Adem, who is here for the very first time. We got a rice box. Adem is four years old and just got covered in red ants. They bit him all over. We got new toys. We talked about THE ARMOR OF GOD. The ARMOR OF GOD is about protecting yourself without hurting anybody else. We'll hopefully see you soon. Love, Hannah Fetko, Lex Fetko, Tucker,

Adem, Laura W. and Sandy L.

Hospitality Committee: Coffee & Surprises: We are asking that after Worship hospitality be finger food to make clean-up minimal. Sign-up sheets for June to December are made up and on the clip board in the social room with each Month's responsible committee noted. For June through September we have the following:

June: First Day School-Sandy Lyon ♦ *July*: Hospitality- Jean Burton/ Karen Arrington (in absence of clerk)
August: Library - Betty Odum ♦ *September*: Peace and Social Concerns-Jim Morrison. Pro-Nica Board will meet at the Gainesville Meetinghouse on 9/10/11. The Hospitality Committee will provide a breakfast bar & sandwich lunch. Overnight accommodations are needed. The Board is planning a program to entice community people to attend, so Tim Fogerty needs assistance with publicity. Simple Gifts Fall Bazaar will be October 29th. Think of crafts you can begin to make so that plenty of items of all types can be offered for sale. Think about Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas items.