

# QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

TENTH MONTH, 2011

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## Quaker Meetinghouse

702 NW 38<sup>th</sup> St.

Gainesville, FL 32607

352-372-1070

[www.GainesvilleQuakers.org](http://www.GainesvilleQuakers.org)

Clerk: Annie McPherson

[Clerk@GainesvilleQuakers.org](mailto:Clerk@GainesvilleQuakers.org)

Newsletter: Jen Ambrose Cotter

[Newsletter@GainesvilleQuakers.org](mailto:Newsletter@GainesvilleQuakers.org)

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

## Please Hold In the Light

*Tom and Carol Clark  
Doris Nabors and Family  
Morrie Trimmer  
Marie and Dave Parsons  
Eleanor and Andy Merritt*

## MEMBER NEWS

**Carol Clark** has been faithfully sharing the story of her husband **Tom Clark's** journey with cancer in an online journal. From September 22:

*"The Hospice nurse was here this morning. She said that I should contact those who wanted to say good-bye to Tom. I have done that. I knew yesterday that Tom had changed and had gone into a different world. He slept peacefully a lot and then when he was awake he stared at something in the room—sometimes at me sending me an air kiss—sometimes at something just beyond me with a slight smile as if he saw something or remembered something happy.*

*He barely eats—maybe an egg and some flan all day. Apparently his body has no more use for food. (But it is hard for me because making him delicious meals has always been a way to say "I love you" to him.) He lost ten pounds this week. The nurse said he is very healthy except for the tumor. His heart is in good shape and his lungs are not filling with liquid. She thinks he will have a peaceful death, given who he is."*

Tom and Carol are in North Carolina. Their blog is at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/tomclark2>.

**Hallie Payne** – who was a frequent attender of our meeting last year until a new job made it difficult for her to join us on Sundays - has begun a new local foods initiative. With **Gainesville Fish** - a community supported fishery - she hopes to organize a member base to buy seafood directly from regional wholesalers who are committed to using practices aligned to the group's values. Find out more at <http://gainesvillefishcsf.wordpress.com>.



## QUAKERS IN HISTORY

### *Bayard Rustin: Unsung Hero of the Civil Rights Movement*

by Jim Morrison

Bayard Rustin remains one of the most influential, yet largely unknown, and unappreciated heroes of the Civil Rights Movement. He was an early believer of non-violence and active member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR). Born on March 17, 1912, in Westchester, PA, he was raised by his maternal grandparents, Janifer and Julia Restin (a Quaker). In 1937, after attending Wilberforce College, Cheyney State Teachers College, and an AFSC activist training program, he moved to Harlem. He became a member of the Fifteenth Street Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. After a brief membership with the Communist Youth League, Rustin became disillusioned with the Communist Party and began working with Norman Thomas and other noted members of the Socialist Party, including A. Philip Randolph, head of the influential Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and A.J. Muste, head of the FOR.



**Bayard Rustin helped to organize the 1957 Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the 1963 March on Washington.**

Restin assisted in founding CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) in 1942. He actively protested the deportation and seizure of the property of Japanese Americans in California during WWII. Restin was sent to prison from 1944 to 1966 because as a conscientious objector he was found to be in violation of the Selective Service Act. While in prison, he began organizing against British colonial rule in Africa and India. Rustin traveled to India in 1948 to study non-violent resistance techniques at a conference organized by Gandhi (before his tragic assassination earlier that year). In this period Rustin also met with leaders of independence movements in Ghana and Nigeria and worked to support their cause. In 1951, he formed the Committee to Support South African Resistance (later called the American Committee on Africa).

In 1953, Rustin ran training workshops in non-violence and racial equality, organized lunch counter boycotts and the first "freedom ride" in 1947 (called "The Journey of Reconciliation") and spent 22 days on a North Carolina chain gang as a result. In the early 1950s, Restin became executive director of the War Resister's League. In 1956, during the Montgomery bus boycott, Restin became a key advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr., on the strategy and tactics of non-violence, helping to shape King's commitment to peaceful methods. Restin later helped King to organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Randolph to organize the 1963 "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom." Yet because he was openly gay and had briefly worked with the Communist Party, he was largely relegated to the background and voluntarily played an unacknowledged role in what he did, including his part in authoring the widely read and respected American Friends Service Committee booklet, *Speak Truth to Power: A Quaker Search for an Alternative to Violence* (1955).

Rustin later became a strong supporter of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act. He was also an influential writer and organizer in the labor movement. Rustin founded and became the Director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, whose task was to coordinate the AFL-CIO's work on civil rights and economic justice. In his later years, Rustin returned to the Socialist Party of America and became its co-chairman in 1972 and later became chairman of the Social Democrats USA.

Despite all of Restin's efforts and accomplishments, it wasn't until years after his death (in 1987, of a perforated appendix), that Bayard Rustin began to receive some recognition for his role in the civil rights movement, through the publication of two anthologies of his writings (*Down the Line*, and *Time on Two Crosses*), several biographies, and a 2001 documentary, "Brother Outsider," which aired on PBS.

In Restin's obituary, the *New York Times* quoted him as saying, "The principal factors which influenced my life are 1) nonviolent tactics; 2) constitutional means; 3) democratic procedures; 4) respect for human personality; 5) a belief that all people are one."

### Friendly Book Group

A film about Bayard Rustin was shown on September 18, and a Friendly Book discussion on his life and writings is scheduled for October 16. **Members are encouraged to prepare by reading one or more of the following books :**

*Bayard Rustin: Troubles I've Seen* by Jervis Anderson

*Time on Two Crosses: The Collected Writings of Bayard Rustin* edited by Devon W. Carbado and Donald Weise

*Lost Prophet: Bayard Rustin and the Quest for Peace and Justice in America* by John D'Emilio

*Bayard Rustin: Behind the Scenes of the Civil Rights Movement* by James Haskins

*Bayard Rustin and the Civil Rights Movement* by Daniel Levine

*Down the Line: The Collected Writings of Bayard Rustin* by Bayard Rustin

*Speak Truth to Power: A Quaker Search for an Alternative to Violence* by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)



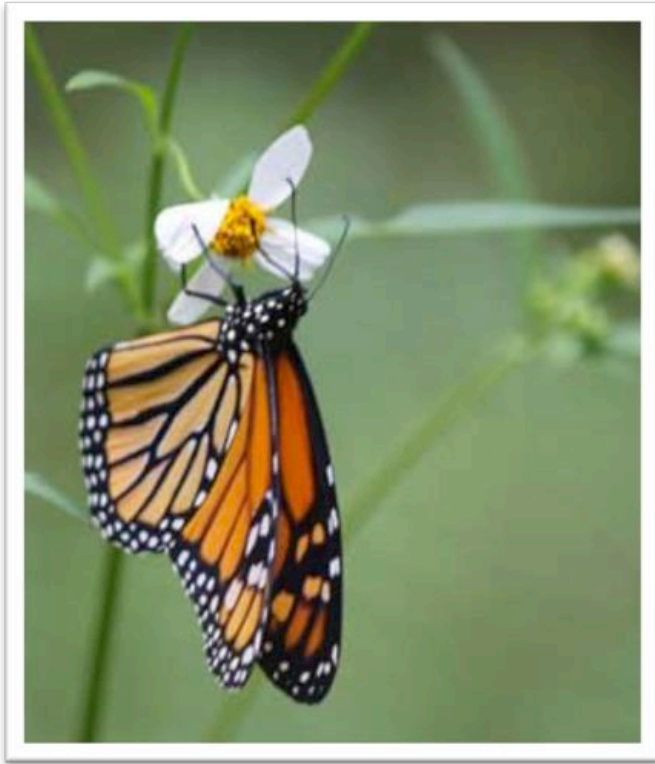
**Young Friends Hoyt, Audrey and Bronwyn play in the sea and sand. (Not shown: Christi).**

## ROOTS & WINGS

*Raising Quaker Children*

Young Friends were treated to a delightful Labor Day weekend beach retreat, thanks to the generosity of Laura and Jim Weinfeldner. Members of the Porter, Cotter and Hall families were in attendance.

In the safety of a tide pool, three-year-old Audrey warmed up to the idea of holding her breath underwater, for fun. Her sister Bronwyn read and laughed her way through the children's books in reach, and overnight, Hoyt seemed to hit a comfortable new stride with sharing and caring about his friends. Christi's stay was too short, but her playful spirit got the party started.



**Near our retention pond, a monarch butterfly lights on a *Bidens alba*, or “beggartick” flower.**

## A WALK IN THE QUAKER WOODS

*Explorations of the Meetinghouse Property*

by Jean Larson with photographs by Bill Mitchell

Today after meeting and snacks, Bill and I headed out to the woods. We admired the way the slope along the front of the meetinghouse looks after Ryan trimmed away the extra three feet of *Mimosa strigillosa* that had grown into the driveway. Some of the purple verbena (*Glandularia canadensis*) is still blooming, but it is slowing down this fall.

The Georgia calamint (*Calamintha georgiana*) growing around the peace pole had lots of blooms and was attracting pollinators. I keep pulling up persistent sandmats (*Chamaesyce* species). They are somewhat inconspicuous native plants that are in the wrong spot for the front slope. They are said to exude a latex-like material that can be irritating and should be kept from getting into one's eyes.

Also blooming are the bidens, both beggarticks, the one with the simple white petaled flower (*Bidens alba*), and spanish needles, (*Bidens bipinnata*), with divided leaves and a small yellow flower. We enjoyed watching a butterfly light on one near the back retention pond, and tentatively identified the butterfly as a monarch. Bill showed me a place where he had dug/pulled out a Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), featured on of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's 2007 list of Florida's most invasive species.

We spotted another specimen a short distance away. I noticed many ragweed plants (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) beginning to bloom in the bottom of the retention basin. I pulled a large hand full of plants but left equally many behind. I hope I get more of them out of there before they come fully into bloom, since many people are allergic to the pollen. They are down at the bottom of the basin, south of the myrtle leaf holly (*Ilex cassine* L. var *myrtifolia*) donated by Bart, which I regularly admire on my walks down the drive.

We walked up along the drying creek bed, where we saw a turtle in the only water that was deep enough and had sufficient shelter to seem safe. We think it is the same one we saw before. Previously we reported that we thought it must be just passing through. Now Bill thinks that it may come upstream from somewhere, possibly the sinkhole south of our property where the much of the water from the creek flows. We have not been to that area for some time, but have observed in the past that it dries out on occasion. Both times that we saw the turtle were after the stream had dried up, and both times the turtle was in the first hole deep enough.

Further into the woods we observed signs of fall, with interesting patterns made by leaves and pine needles floating atop sandy expanses. There were occasional bright red leaves that caught my eye while I was picking up bright bits of trash. We also saw some handsome bracket fungi whose woodsy, rusty color reminded me of book shelves. Autumn shows up in subtle ways in our woods, and I felt blessed to be there to see them.



## Memorial Minute for Scott Minor



Frank “Scott” Minor became a member of the Gainesville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in September of 1995, but he had been familiar with Friends from childhood. He was born in Pennsylvania and attended Newtown Friends School and Newtown Friends Meeting as a child.

Scott served in the military during the Vietnam War. When he was inducted, he wrote “Quaker” on the line requesting religion. The man behind the desk smiled and asked, “Don’t you know Quakers are pacifists?” Scott didn’t know that. He earned several military decorations while in service.

When he returned from the war, like many other Vietnam veterans, he was left with a residue of anger about the war and a sense of exclusion from the mainstream culture. He bought a motorcycle and had two crashes, which injured him physically more than the war had.

Scott loved popular music and amassed a collection of long playing vinyl records which he hoped would increase in value over the years. He also liked to play music for his own pleasure and in performing groups. He enjoyed the role of disc jockey. He tried his hand at writing lyrics and succeeded in writing a popular song called, “My Baby She Wrote Me a Letter.”

He worshipped with the Quakers who meet in Ocala. He first came to the group when it met at George Newkirk’s house in Ocala. A bond grew between George and Scott. The meeting itself was a point of stability in Scott’s life through the many difficulties he had. He called the Quaker Meeting his family.

*Approved at Meeting for Worship for Business on September 11, 2011.*

*This memorial minute, as well as others, will be posted on our website:  
[www.gainesvillequakers.org/committees/ministry-nurture/memorial-minutes/](http://www.gainesvillequakers.org/committees/ministry-nurture/memorial-minutes/)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Earthcare Witness Committee**

On Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm, Earthcare Witness will host a forum: "Local & Sustainable Food Production." Anna Prizzia, chapter leader of Slow Food Gainesville and director of UF's Office of Sustainability will lead a discussion about our local food system and food sustainability. Please bring a healthy, local or "slow food" dish to share after Meeting, before the forum begins.

On Wednesday, October 12th from 6:30-8:30pm, the League of Women Voters of Alachua County/Gainesville, FL and the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will host a public water forum titled "The Status and Future of our Water Supply." This forum will take place in Gainesville at Oak Hammock, 5100 SW 25th Blvd. Come learn about aquifers, groundwater, and how water is being used and managed in North Florida. For more information, visit [www.alachuacountywater.org](http://www.alachuacountywater.org).

### **First Day School Committee**

We are very grateful that Mary Allee has agreed to be our "birthday fairy." She will mail a birthday card to each of the wee and young friends that attend or have a connection with our meeting. Please send me, Sandy Lyon, the names and mailing addresses of any children that you are aware of that are not currently in our Member and Attender Directory. Also, please be on the look out for birthday cards that may be appropriate. I want to supply her with a nice assortment of cards.

Adult Friends, please remember to sign up to be the "Messenger" or "Story Teller" for First Day School. Someone will be in the room to manage the children's needs - all you need to do is share something from your life. The children have so enjoyed this, hearing stories about Quakerism and Quaker values. This is an important tool for strengthening our community, and for raising Quaker children.

### **Ministry & Nurture Committee**

The Meeting has approved the membership of Timothy Ray! Plans for a celebration are in the works.

On Sunday, November 6th, Ministry & Nurture will present a forum discussion: "Quaker Quest: A Dynamic and Transformative Inreach and Outreach Process." This is a project of Friends General Conference that was founded by twelve London Friends. At the forum, we will discuss whether our Meeting would like to participate in a Quaker Quest workshop, and whether we feel led to undertake public sessions about Quakerism.

On Saturday, November 19, Jonathan Jordan, from Winter Park Monthly Meeting, will offer a retreat on the topic: "Healing Body, Mind and Spirit." His presentation will focus on "the Mysticism of Mindful Quaker Contemplation." The concept of belief/placebo effect will be discussed, as will experiential exercises such as breathing and mindful meditation. Participants will be encouraged to share what they experience during these activities, with a focus on mystical experiences and/or physical or mental healing.

A new group is forming the Meeting, tentatively called "Quaker Adventures." This group is for individuals interested in doing activities together such as game nights, nature excursions, concerts, volunteer work, craft projects, etc. A listserv will be created for organizing events. If you are interested in being a part of this group, contact Arlene at 386-462-5615.

### **Nominating Committee**

Friends and attenders are welcome unannounced at all committee meetings, with two exceptions. Please contact the clerks of the Ministry & Nurture and Nominating committees in advance if you wish to attend. These committees occasionally have sensitive items on their agendas, so they may ask you to attend at a specific time. Showing interest in committee work is encouraged: You are welcome!

Newly named clerks and/or conveners of committees are asked to contact all named people on your committee and schedule and announce meetings in advance of the dates and times chosen. If you wish to be named on a committee, or if you wish to suggest another person be named to a committee, you may contact the standing **Nominating Committee**. Our next meeting is at 9:30 AM on October 16th. The Nominating Committee members for 2011-2012 are Gene Beardsley, Sybil Ann Brennan (convener), Betty Odum and Arnold Von der Porten.

### **Peace & Social Concerns Committee**

On October 7th, from 7-9pm, the No Nukes Tour will make a stop at our Meetinghouse. The No Nukes Tour is co-sponsored by the Green Party and Veterans for Peace, and will feature anti-nuclear activist Howie Hawkins and local guest speakers. This event will focus on the global public health threat posed by the nuclear industry, and in particular the threats we face in Florida, such as the 20-year license extensions being rubber-stamped for the aging nuclear plants (especially Crystal River), and also the proposed Levy County nuclear plant, which would be 40 miles from Gainesville. There will be an update on the worsening Fukushima disaster and a discussion about the growing anti-nuclear movement in the US, and how we can organize an effective progressive movement in the South.

On Sunday, October 30th at 1pm, we will watch *Better This World*. (See Calendar for details). One of the participants in this film was Eryn Trimmer, grandson of Morrie Trimmer and Betty Odum. Members of our Meeting followed and financed, their struggle, arrest, three years under indictment, and final freedom. Eryn and Monica Bicking, another of the seven, had a ceremony of commitment last year, and this July, welcomed a baby girl, Indigo.

Almost every week I pick up the non-perishable food that Gainesville Monthly Meeting has collected, and I take it to Gainesville Community Ministries. On September 13, I arrived at GCM before it opened. Near the entrance were about 40 people. Ten or so were in wheelchairs or with canes. Some had found seating on makeshift chairs. All were waiting for the food distribution window to open. I knocked on the door several times, but no one came to open it. One of the men waiting came to me and said, "they won't open for you because they think you're one of us." He directed me to another door where I could leave the food.

And aren't we all "one of us?" Friends, thank you for the food you bring each week, and please bring more. Much more.

~Jim Winefordner

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sun Sep 25, 2011

9:30am Peace & Social Concerns Committee Meeting in the Library  
11am Meeting for Worship  
11:15am First Day School  
12:30pm Bible Study

Mon Sep 26, 2011

6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Sun Oct 2, 2011

11am Meeting for Worship  
11:15am First Day School  
12pm Slow Food Potluck  
1pm Forum: Slow Food Gainesville (Sustainable Food Production)

Mon Oct 3, 2011

6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Tue Oct 4, 2011

11:30am Friendly Lunch at Books, Inc.

Fri Oct 7, 2011

7pm "No Nukes Tour" with Howie Hawkins at the Meetinghouse

Sun Oct 9, 2011

11am Meeting for Worship  
11:15am First Day School  
12:45pm Meeting for Worship for Business

Mon Oct 10, 2011

6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Tue Oct 11, 2011

5pm Ministry & Nurture Committee Meeting

Wed Oct 12, 2011

6:30pm The Status & Future of our Water Supply at Oak Hammock

Sat Oct 15, 2011

Meetinghouse Workday

Sun Oct 16, 2011

9:30am Nominating Committee Meeting in the Meetinghouse Library  
11am Meeting for Worship  
11:15am First Day School  
12pm Rise of Meeting Potluck  
1pm Friendly Book Group "The Life and Writings of Bayard Rustin"

Mon Oct 17, 2011

Reservations Due for United Nations Day Luncheon  
6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

**Our Simple Gifts craft sale is coming up soon! If you are able, please help make items that we can sell.**



Thu Oct 20, 2011

9am United Nations Day Luncheon at the Gainesville Women's Club

Fri Oct 21, 2011

7pm Film Night: "Why We Fight" at the Meetinghouse

*"Is American foreign policy dominated by the idea of military supremacy? Has the military become too important in American life? Jarecki's shrewd and intelligent polemic would seem to give an affirmative answer to each of these questions."*

Sun Oct 23, 2011

9:30am Peace & Social Concerns Committee Meeting in the Library

11am Meeting for Worship

11:15am First Day School

12:30pm Bible Study

Mon Oct 24, 2011

6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Sat Oct 29, 2011

Simple Gifts Fall Sale

Sun Oct 30, 2011

11am Meeting for Worship

11:15am First Day School

1pm Film: "Better This World" in the Meetinghouse Social Room

*"The radicalization of boyhood friends, accused of intending to firebomb the 2008 Republican National Convention, is a tale of idealism, loyalty, crime and betrayal."*

Mon Oct 31, 2011

6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Sun Nov 6, 2011

1pm Forum: Quaker Quest

Sat Nov 19, 2011

1pm "Healing Body, Mind and Spirit" with Jonathan Jordan

On Thursday, October 20, from 9-1pm, the annual celebration of United Nations Day will take place at the Gainesville Woman's Club, 2809 West University Avenue. Our Meeting is one of the sponsors for this event. The topic this year is "The United Nations - In Everyone's Interest," with a focus on Health, Security and Global Prosperity. The program will be chaired by Hank Conner, with a morning panel discussion led by Sadie Sanders, Ph.D. and Elizabeth Porter, M.A. The Keynote Luncheon Speaker will be Sovaida Ma'ani-Ewing, an international lawyer based in Washington, D.C.. Ms. Ma'ani-Ewing has written extensively on Sustainability and the UN. Lunch reservations are requested by October 17<sup>th</sup>. Contact Lisa Renner at [ejrenner@hotmail.com](mailto:ejrenner@hotmail.com) or PO Box 358361, Gainesville FL 32635.

~ Laura Winefordner

## QUERIES & ADVICES

*“Social & Economic Justice”*

Do we seek to transform the world with our loving spirit? ∞ Do we take an active interest in the social and economic conditions of our community? ∞ Have we objectively considered the causes of discrimination and are we ready to abandon old prejudices and think anew? ∞ Do we, as individuals and as a Meeting, do all in our power to end governmental, social, economic and educational injustices in our community, and to create equal opportunity for all? ∞ How do we as individuals and as a Meeting promote the welfare of those in need and work to secure a just distribution of the world’s resources? ∞ What are we doing as individuals and as a Meeting to understand and remove the causes of war and violence and to develop the conditions and institutions of peace?

Seek to understand the causes of social ills and work toward their removal. ∞ Be not content to accept things as they are, but keep an alert, sensitive, and questioning mind. ∞ Understand and maintain Friends’ witness for truth, simplicity, and non-violence, holding up your personal life to these testimonies. ∞ Encourage inclusiveness and discourage discrimination. ∞ Friends’ belief in “That of God in Everyone” should lead to reverence for all life and to personal integrity. ∞ Encourage all efforts to overcome prejudices and antagonisms. Cherish diversity. ∞ Aid and comfort those afflicted or in prison, that they may rebuild their lives. Work for the abolition of the death penalty. ∞ Let the way that we live contribute to the realization of a peaceable kingdom on earth.

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of the Religious Society of Friends  
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