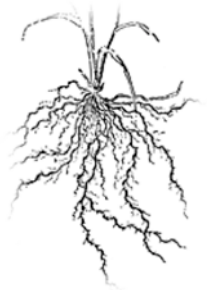


QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



Roots & Wings

Raising Quaker Children

First Day School ran smoothly over the summer and is almost fully staffed through the end of October. Each First Day, the children begin with a few minutes of silence in the Meeting for Worship before adjourning to the First Day School room. In addition to providing a supervised, safe and welcoming area for our wee and young friends, we have adopted the practice of having an adult member of the Meeting visit the First Day Room, sharing with the children a story about their life, and about being a Quaker. So far we've heard messages about music, water, botany, language, literature, Bible stories, Quaker testimonies, and tales of growing up in a Quaker home.

If we are going to raise another generation of Quakers we have to be willing to share our stories, testimonies, and practices, with the children in our meeting. Both the children and the adults who have experienced this sharing have been greatly enriched by the opportunity to spend time together. In addition to growing Quakers, we are strengthening our community.

If you have not yet done so, please sign up with me to share your message with the First Day Class.

~ Sandy Lyon



NINTH MONTH, 2011

Table of Contents

ROOTS & WINGS	1
QUAKERS IN HISTORY	2
Our New Website	2
A WALK IN THE QUAKER WOODS	3
"Quakers Welcome ProNica Board"	4
MEMBER NEWS	4
"Personal Views of Nominators"	5
MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS	6
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	7
QUERIES & ADVICES	8

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Clerk: Annie McPherson

Clerk@GainesvilleQuakers.org

Newsletter: Jen Ambrose Cotter

Newsletter@GainesvilleQuakers.org

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

Please Hold In the Light

Tom & Carol Clark
Eleanor & Andy Merritt
Marie & Dave Parson
Morrie Trimmer



QUAKERS IN HISTORY: Lloyd C. Griscom (1872-1959)

From "The Messina Earthquake," a story in the Berkeley Monthly Meeting's "Quaker History Calendar."

Quaker **Lloyd C. Griscom** was our Ambassador to Italy and only 38 years old when the Messina Earthquake struck on December 28, 1908. The estimates of the death toll range from 60 to 200 thousand.

It was Sunday morning, January 3rd when Griscom appointed a committee of American volunteers in Rome. They worked night and day, making lists and contacts, sewing, packing and tying bundles.

The Ambassador procured a ship from Germany, emergency supplies from wherever, and pitched in with members of the committee to load the ship. He requested help and funds from the American Red Cross and money from the American government. They brought in the American fleet, first for search and rescue, and then to build a large hospital, schools and 1500 homes. Griscom, a friend of President ("Teddy") Roosevelt as well as King Victor of Italy, convinced Roosevelt to pay a visit to Messina to view the relief and reconstruction.



The Italians held a huge celebration in 2009, which singled out America for its help and generosity in 1909. As Maud Howe Elliott put it in her *Sicily in Shadow and in Sun*, "From the beginning Griscom did the impossible – the only thing worth doing in this world."

~Shared by Jean Larson

www.GainesvilleQuakers.org

Our New Website

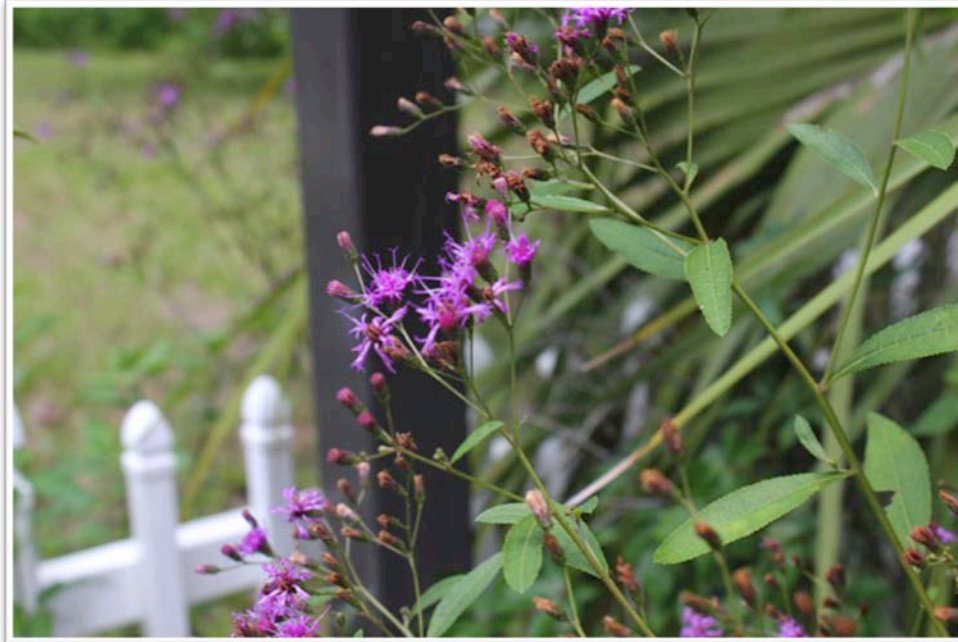
In August, the Meeting approved a new Newsletter & Website committee: Jen Ambrose Cotter (clerk), Bill Mitchell, A.J. Kleinhessel and Tim Ray.

Several other committees have shared ideas over the past year that require new ways of communicating both with each other and with the surrounding community. Peace & Social Concerns would like to send out "Action Alerts" notifying interested parties of ways that they can participate in creating positive change in the world. Building & Grounds would like a procedure for reserving areas in the Meetinghouse, and for those reservations to appear on a public calendar. Earthcare Witness is compiling a list of resources for finding local and sustainable foods. This list will benefit not just our members, but many other people living in our area.

In order to accommodate our growing needs, we are migrating away from the www.afn.org/~quakers website that Bill Mitchell has faithfully maintained for nearly a decade. (Thank you, Bill!) Our new website – www.GainesvilleQuakers.org - is still under construction, but you can peek at it and your suggestions and feedback are welcome.

Each committee has its own page on the site. Please discuss with your committee members what you want published on your page. As you brainstorm, keep in mind that we are planning to make parts of the website password protected for sensitive information (like our Member Directory). Also, several email options are available for committees.

~Jen Ambrose Cotter



Giant Ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*) at the entrance to the Meetinghouse.



Beautyberry (*Callicarpa Americana*)



Coral bean (*Erythrina herbacea*)

A WALK IN THE QUAKER WOODS

Explorations of the Meetinghouse Property

by Jean Larson with photographs by Bill Mitchell

August 21, 2011

After a travel-filled summer, with occasional forays into the woods and sporadic sessions weeding the recently planted slope in front of the Meetinghouse, Bill and I resumed our regular practice of taking a walk in the woods together after Meeting.

While the blanket flowers (*Gallardia pulchella*) and dune sunflowers (*Helianthus debilis*) have been blooming happily this summer at the entrance to the property, and the giant ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*) has been attracting lots of pollinators (bees, butterflies), the flowers in the woods are subdued at this time, with very little in bloom.

The purple clusters of berries surrounding some branches of the beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) captured not only *our* attention, but also that of John Burton. We spotted John photographing one before Meeting.

The coral bean (*Erythrina herbacea*) near the driveway east of the Meeting for Worship room is showing off

were swamped by a flow of sand that flooded down the ditch during the summer. We spotted new or recurring infestations of invasive exotic plants: skunk vine (*Paederia foetid*), coral ardisia (*Ardisia crenata*), and Chinese tallow (*Sapium sebifera*).

When we walked along the creek, I spotted small fish or tadpoles swimming away.

We found a turtle shell which was losing its outer covering. We looked for raccoon footprints near the creek and found them a bit downstream of their usual place. Nearby there were distinctive furrows that looked like they had been made by the tails of armadillos. It was good to be home and walking in the woods together.

**I had just the previous day completed an intensive course on wild edible mushrooms.*

I do not recommend eating any wild mushrooms unless you are well informed about the features that distinguish those that are safe from those that are poisonous and indigestible.

Continued on page 4 . . .

Continued from page 3 . . .

bright red beans (they are poisonous). Be careful if you look at it; the plant has spines on its stems for protection.

Earlier in the summer, the garden beds in the children's yard held potatoes, Brussels sprouts, squash, tomatoes and a tall sunflower. Now the bed is fallow so it will be ready for planting when the weather turns cooler.

Lighting up the woods were golden chanterelles (*Cantharellus cibarius*), which Jen Ambrose Cotter had

identified for me when she showed me a basket of them she was taking home to cook.* It would be nice to encourage these edible mushrooms to grow. One hint found on the web encourages using a basket to carry them so that any spores that are released may fall to the ground. The main part of the mushroom is a microscopic set of cobweb like material called mycelia that is in the top six inches of soil and leaf litter. Compacting the soil or raking the leaves disturbs the mycelia, so step lightly when you see these lovely specimens.

On our after meeting walk, Bill and I fluffed up the two remaining river oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) from the five that I had planted. The others



Golden chanterelles
(*Cantharellus cibarius*)

Gainesville Quakers Welcome ProNica Board

On September 10th, ProNica will have their Board Meeting at the Gainesville Quaker Meetinghouse. Our Hospitality committee will arrange breakfast and lunch for the Board, but all Friends are invited to attend a potluck dinner at the Meetinghouse in the evening. Come meet the dedicated people whose service has helped to sustain programs initiated by and for the Nicaraguan people. Enjoy authentic Nicaraguan cuisine and bring a dish to share. Dinner starts at 6pm and at 7pm there will be entertainment, including live guitar music and dancing.

To learn more about ProNica, join us after Meeting on September 4th at 1pm to watch an hour-long DVD, followed by Q&A with Tim Fogarty.

MEMBER NEWS



Sheree Sims

was recently awarded the Library Leadership Award for her service as Branch Manager at the Melrose Public Library.



Morrie Trimmer is

currently living in China with his new bride, Guiying Liu.

He recently fell and broke a hip, but surgery was successful and he is now healing.

He's completing paperwork so his new wife can accompany him when he returns home to Gainesville.

Morrie's address in China:

Liu, Guiying
Room 501, Unit 3, Building 3 – 1
Yinzhou Road, Yinzhou District
Gieling, 112000
Liconing
Peoples Republic of China, Post
Code 112000

Personal Views of Nominators

2010-2011

This article is about the nominators and how they personally see their job. It is not the handbook/job description, which can be studied, but rather is filled with clues on why these individuals accepted the tasks as nominators.

We are seeking the gifts of individuals and are asking about the willingness to fill the slots on our roster. Sometimes we actually discover gifts not known to Meeting before, because of becoming better acquainted with members and attenders, and sometimes others recommend someone to us. The most fun is occasionally to mentor someone and actually to recognize a certain gift together. These gifts may be skills such as editing, taking good notes, creative play or the ability to sing, write poetry, plant things or knit, or these gifts may be thoughtful centering, humor, mentoring, listening, discerning and sharing messages.

A good match is often achieved when there is a committee's need and the timing suits the individual being asked to extend themselves. A good match may also be on a committee where different views will be expressed, and therefore, the committee better represents views of our Meeting as a whole - enriching the worship and the work of the group. It may take time to find a way forward within such a committee, and yet the discernment process is invaluable in trying to do so.

Contacting everyone, members and attenders alike, helps us all to feel wanted. This particularly becomes an important practice with newer attenders. Mentoring individuals to teach about committee work serving the Meeting and to make a number of possibilities available adds to our care; this is preparing people for assignments they may never have previously considered.

When things do not work out in a positive way we are eager to find a better solution. We do realize that this is not bad, but it is rather an opportunity to seek together. This view makes the nominating process an optimistic practice, rather than regarding rejection as a personal failure on the part of the nominator. We hope to be an instrument as way opens and not a judgmental block to any one's participation. After all, it is a reality that people's energies do burn out, or they can feel overwhelmed by certain tasks. Openness to change is necessary! Staying in touch with a Friend or attender who has said "no," or "no, at this time," or "no for this year," may actually mean that this person will take on a greater responsibility when an inclination is present, when the pause is completed, and the person is refreshed.

It is always a joy when the Nominating Committee hears that someone has volunteered for a position; we do preserve the practice of worshipping together as a committee to try to discern what is best for our Gainesville Monthly Meeting. If the job of the Nominating Committee is not the most important job of any committee, then it is very close to it. Since the leadership of the Meeting results from the Nominating Committee's choices, the nominators on the committee must take their job seriously; each selection must try to result in the best person or persons available to do the job for which they are being selected.

The strength(s) of the Meeting and the growth of the Meeting are directly influenced by the selection process/results, and the evolving of new positions and birth of new and/or reorganized committees.

~ Gene Beardsley, Betty Odum, Sybil Ann Brennan, Morrie Trimmer, Sandra Lyon, Arnold Von der Porten

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ministry & Nurture has appointed a Clearness Committee for a new membership request. Who's the candidate? Find out at our next Meeting for Worship for Business!

Earthcare Witness will host a forum on October 2nd at 1pm on "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 or snack to share with our guests before the forum begins.

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

Our Meeting sent \$100 as financial support for Cece Yocum. Along with **Friends Peace Teams**, she is organizing a Trauma Healing workshop in Antigua, Guatemala this September. If you would like to personally support the work of Friends Peace Teams, send donations to:

Tampa Monthly Meeting
1502 West Sligh Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33604

We are continuing to have problems with our **film projector**. Apparently the shop doing the repair work has had difficulty in finding parts. We do have a TV in the library for backup, but if you are planning to attend a film night and have trouble viewing smaller screens, call Jim Morrison for a status update.

Submissions for the newsletter are due by the Monday before the last Sunday of the month. Please send text in either the body of an email or in an attached Word or Open Office document. Send photos as separate .jpg files. All materials should be addressed to Newsletter@GainesvilleQuakers.org.

Friendly Yoga Class is Back!

On September 12th, Gary Larson will resume teaching his weekly yoga class at the Meetinghouse every Monday night from 6 to 7pm.

Dress comfortably and bring a mat or a towel and a spill-proof water bottle.

The Meeting has approved the use of **spill-proof water bottles** in the Worship room. Please continue to leave all other food and drinks in the Social room during Meeting for Worship.

We have a new **Facebook group**! FB users can search for "Gainesville Quakers." Already 16 people have joined! Shanna (Beardsley) Johnson posted a very good question: *Is a beach weekend planned for families with young children?* Several families hope so . . .

Anyone interested in **posting events to our online calendar**, please contact the group email for the Newsletter & Website committee:

newsletter_website_committee
@GainesvilleQuakers.org.

Any committees interested in having a **group email**, which allows all (computer-using) members of your committee to be reached with one address (messages are still delivered to your regular accounts), see Jen Ambrose Cotter, or email the address above.

Just a reminder, Dick & Gene Beardsley are taking a sabbatical from their computer. If you need to reach them, please **use the telephone**.

If you have not yet filled out your **emergency contact form**, please see Sandy Lyon. These forms will be kept in the Meeting's library in a notebook. Hopefully, we'll never need them.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun Aug 28, 2011

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

Sun Sep 4, 2011

11am Meeting for Worship
11:15am First Day School
1pm Forum: ProNica Film & Discussion in the Meetinghouse Social Room

Tue Sep 6, 2011

11:30am Friendly Lunch at Books, Inc.

Sat Sep 10, 2011

6pm ProNica Potluck Dinner in the Meetinghouse Social Room

Sun Sep 11, 2011

11am Meeting for Worship
11:15am First Day School
12:45pm Meeting for Worship for Business (Clerked by Cheryl Demers-Holton)

Mon Sep 12, 2011

6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Tue Sep 13, 2011

5pm Ministry & Nurture Committee Meeting

Fri Sep 16, 2011

7pm Film Night at the Meetinghouse "Of Gods And Men"

Sun Sep 18, 2011

11am Meeting for Worship
11:15am First Day School
12pm Rise of Meeting Potluck

Mon Sep 19, 2011

6pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Sun Sep 25, 2011

9:30am Peace & Social Concerns Committee Meeting in the Meetinghouse 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 (Local & Sustainable Food Production)

Sat Oct 15, 2011

Meetinghouse Workday

Sat Oct 29, 2011

Simple Gifts Fall Sale

“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?

ADVICES

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.”**

**Gainesville Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends**
702 NW 38th Street
Gainesville, FL 32607