

# QUAKER NEWSLETTER

## GAINESVILLE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

<http://www.afn.org/~quakers/>

**Meeting Place:** 702 NW 38<sup>th</sup> St., Gainesville, Fla. 32607

**Phone:** 352-372-1070

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**NEWSLETTER, SIXTH MONTH, 2007**

**JEAN LARSON, CLERK**

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Everybody wake up! Open your eyes! Stand up!  
Be children of the light - strong, swift, and sure-of-foot  
Hurry, clouds, from the four quarters of the universe.

All hearts be glad!

-- *From a Pueblo Song*

Rainmakers, come out so torrents may cover the earth!  
Here is where our Great Mother wishes you to come,  
Here is where our Great Father wishes you to come.  
So our children will live and be happy, send us the good south wind.  
Send us your breath over the lakes, so the whole world  
Will become beautiful and the people live.

-- *A Sia Song*

## MEETING NEWS AND NOTES

**First Day School:** Laura W., who has done a wonderful service with our youngest Friends, will be the new First Day School Committee Clerk. I will continue to teach the older students as long as the meeting and the students are agreeable. The students are learning George Fox's reaction to the world where a newly translated Bible has caused major discontent with the established church and theologians are no help in finding God. I've got a skit about it that we could do some day. (*Connie R.*)

**Quakerism 101:** A good evening of fellowship was enjoyed by those who attended the gathering for Ocala and Gainesville Meetings. Thank you very much, Ellie and Larry, for having all of us in your lovely home, and for all of your preparations, service, and clean up. The book exchange was a success and we got to sing some of our favorite hymns from our hymnbook. Thank you, Jean L., for leading us in singing.

Since we have all been invited to Jim and Laura W's beach house in June, the June Quaker Study Program has been moved to July 20. If this conflicts with movie night, we can change that to July 13. Stay tuned. (*Connie R.*)

Anyone interested in expanding his or her knowledge of Quakerism is invited to attend a class that meets on the second Sundays of the month at 9:15 a.m. In June we will meet on June 10 and talk about the Universality of the Light, the Role of Reason and "The Place of Universalism in the Religious Society of Friends." The latter is a pamphlet that costs \$3. See me if you need one. The other resource is Howard Brinton's *Friends for 300 (or 350) Years* (pages 35-39 in 300).

Questions for reflection and discussion are: Why should Friends be careful in their use of reason? How is the Light universal? Do you see problems in Friends' heavy use of the term Light? What dangers of racism and sexism lie in the equation of "light" with goodness and "darkness" with evil? What are the limits of the metaphor of the Light? How is the Friends concept of the Light universalist? How is it Christian? How do you respond to the Quaker universalism expressed by Dan Seeger (page 90)? Why does he say, "Genuine universalism is very demanding of its practitioners?" Do you agree? (*Connie R.*)

**Nonviolent Communications:** Everyone is invited to the Nonviolent Communication (NVC) study and practice group, which will meet every other Wednesday at the meetinghouse from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on May 23, June 6 and 20, and August 1, 15, and 29. We will use Marshall Rosenberg's book, *Nonviolent Communication, a Language of Life*, which is available at Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com, and The Center for Nonviolent Communication, [www.cnvc.org](http://www.cnvc.org).

**About Nonviolent Communication:** NVC was developed by Marshall Rosenberg in response to the violence he observed in the streets of his Detroit neighborhood when he was growing up. Nonviolence does not refer only to the absence of physical harm, but also to a way of "walking gently over the Earth, responding to that of God in everyone." It is a model of communication based on empathy and honesty that helps us connect with ourselves and others with greater compassion.

Some underlying assumptions of NVC are that all human beings share the same feelings and needs, that all actions are attempts to meet needs, that all human beings have the capacity for compassion, that human beings enjoy giving, and that human beings meet needs through relationships. NVC gives us tools for connecting and caring for everyone's needs. The aim is to work toward solutions that meet everyone's needs, not just our own, and not just the other person's. It can help us reach a "sense of the Meeting" with anyone. "It is a practice rooted in understanding, in living honestly, and in acting empathically with all beings." ([www.cnvc.org](http://www.cnvc.org))

Since Marshall Rosenberg began trainings in the 1960's, NVC has become an international movement and is used by individuals in personal relationships, in mediation, in prison work, and in international negotiations. Marshall Rosenberg may not be a Quaker, but he gives Quakers (and others) a strategy for more fully embracing our testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, and equality. (*Jeannie B*)

**A Beachy Day with Friends:** Laura and Jim’s annual beach day will be on Saturday, June 23, at their home in Flagler Beach. Address: 1512 South Central Ave., Flagler Beach. Overnight accommodations as space is available. Please let Laura know if you plan to visit. Flyers are available at the meetinghouse or for more information, contact [laura34@bellsouth.net](mailto:laura34@bellsouth.net) or 372-3972. (Laura W.)

**And Then to Rivers and Tides at Movie Night:** This month's Movie Night feature is the documentary *Rivers and Tides* (aka *Andy Goldsworthy: Rivers and Tides: Working with Time*). Gather with your popcorn at the Burton’s at 7 p.m. Friday, June 15. Address: 2775 NW 106<sup>th</sup> Way (331-3757). On the surface, this Thomas Riedelsheimer’s documentary film, which won numerous prizes, is “about” Scottish artist Andy Goldsworthy, whose art centers around ephemeral sculptures created in nature. New York Times critic Stephen Holden writes about this movie: “As the film's images accumulate, the movie becomes a sustained and ultimately refreshing meditation on surrender to the idea of temporality. If Mr. Goldsworthy's humility in the face of change reminds us that all is vanity, his playfulness also reminds us that a fervent engagement in the moment is in its own way infinite.” The ideas that Mr. Goldsworthy passionately believes about art and creation are relevant to all who create, no matter what medium they use. While the movie is certainly “appropriate” for children, it may well be too slow-moving for the younger set. (Arlene E. and Catherine P.)

**Fix It/Share It at Earthcare Witness:** ECW will meet Sunday, June 18, after Potluck. We will be fixing small items using our tools that can be easily carried. This activity ties in with our tool-sharing library, which we would like to reintroduce and expand. So if you have a small item to fix and any tools to share for the day, please bring them to the next ECW meeting. Contact Dick B. and Arlene E. with questions. (Karen A.)

**Helping the Hospitality Committee:** The Hospitality committee met on May 6 and 20, with its focus the SEYM Executive Committee session and visitation to Gainesville on June 2 and 3. The SEYM committee will have a day-long business session starting at 8 a.m. on June 2. To stock the coffee bar for the day, the committee members are asking people to volunteer to make muffins, cookies and /or brownies to be brought in and placed in freezer by May 27.

Because many of our committee members will be gone for all or part of the summer, we need your help – please check your summer schedules to see if you can volunteer to find people to sign up for “coffee and surprises” to bring for after Meeting for Worship. We need five volunteers to cover July through October. It’s easy! The blank sign-up sheets for each month will be on the clipboard in the social room. The reverse side of the sheet outlines what the “signee” person needs to do. If you can volunteer, please call, email, or see Mona M. (e-mail at [wmmorris@atlantic.net](mailto:wmmorris@atlantic.net)) before June 10. To help you remember your sign-up duty, we will make a “Person Responsible Sign-Up Sheet” for circulation; it will be placed on the coffee and surprises clipboard.

Hospitality Committee has a wish list to help us prepare food more easily in the kitchen. Items are:

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|---|---|
| Small food chopper or mini-food processor,  | 1 small sauté fry pan and 1 larger fry pan,   |
| Paring knives and carrot/potato peelers,  | Serving bowls: regular and oven-proof casserole and small bowls for serving 6-8 persons,  |
| Collapsible colanders (kitchen space is at a premium),  | Glass screw-top quart-size containers for juices, etc.,   |
| Non-aluminum or non-Teflon-coated (health-related reasons) cookie sheet, pie pan and cake pans, | <b>Big wish item:</b> Serving island with a cabinet (with doors) underneath for large trays and pans. *This may require Santa finding an elf-carpenter. |
| Tea strainers,  |   |
| Cake knife/server,  |   |

Mona will post the Wish List in the social room for people to sign up for their contributions (to avoid duplication). (Mona M.)

**Practical Training in De-escalating Conflict: Sponsored by Gainesville Interfaith Peace Center:** To live out a nonviolent lifestyle, we need to be aware of how conflict manifests itself, so we can recognize when resolution or escape strategies, both physical and verbal, can be helpful. This six-part workshop aims to import this knowledge and these skills to participants. Dates and Topics: **June 9:** Conflict Resolution/Mediation **June 23:** Personal Safety Skills **July 14:** Verbal De-Escalation Skills **July 28:** Violence in the Workplace and at Home **August 11:** Assertiveness Training I **August 25:** Assertiveness Training II

Susie Lyons and Don Smith will serve as moderators. Susie is a Senior Social Worker in NF/SG VA Healthcare, a licensed acupuncturist, a member of Holy Faith Catholic Church, and a participant in Gainesville Interfaith Peace Center activities. Don is a Senior Trainer for the Great Books Foundation and belongs to both the Gainesville Friends Meeting and the Gainesville Interfaith Peace Center. Sessions are at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1521 NW 34<sup>th</sup> St. Contacts: Don Smith (371-3719), Eve McMaster (377-6577)

**Budget Matters:** Below is the approved budget for GFM for 2007-08. The amount we need for the mortgage payments is \$12,000, and as long as our pledges keep coming in we should be OK. We plan to spend more from our general budget this year, if we are to strongly express our testimonies through our programs and activities. Thanks to all who contribute so much in money and in time. *(Laura W.)*

2007-2008

AFSC	\$200.00
Campus Ministries	\$50.00
Community Ministries	\$200.00
FCNL	\$200.00
FGC	\$150.00
FWCC	\$350.00
Pendle Hill	\$50.00
Pro Nica	\$100.00
Scholarships	\$500.00
SEYM	\$6,000.00
Special Projects	\$400.00
<b>Donations Total</b>	<b>\$8,200.00</b>
Mortgage Payment	\$12,000.00
Insurance	\$3,500.00
Landscaping	\$500.00
Grounds Maintenance	\$700.00
Building Maintenance	\$1,000.00
Phone	\$700.00
Hospitality	\$700.00
Cleaning	\$1,500.00
Utilities	\$2,800.00
<b>Meetinghouse Total</b>	<b>\$23,400.00</b>
Ministry & Nurture	\$300.00
Special Events	\$500.00
Forum	\$50.00
Peace & Social Concerns	\$100.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$100.00
Library	\$350.00
First-day School	\$500.00
Advertising	\$250.00
Newsletter	\$700.00

Office Expense	\$175.00
Annual Corporation Fee	\$70.00
<b>Program Total</b>	<b>\$3,095.00</b>
Savings	\$900.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$34,695.00</b>
contributions gen fnd	\$22,495.00
contributions mort fnd	\$12,000.00
interest income	\$200.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$34,695.00</b>

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**“We think only our minds listen. In truth, our bodies listen; our hearts listen; every part of us listens. What we listen to constructs our life.”** *Betty Dee King*

**Highlights of the Gainesville Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, May 13, 2007**  
(Jean L., clerk; Betty O., recording clerk. Twelve present)

It was decided to have a copy of each month's minutes, treasurer's report and committee reports in the library file cabinet, for easy reference.

Our representatives to the Southeastern Yearly Meeting gathering reported the most outstanding business session was the 9 ½ hours spent on the Minute concerning SEYM's affiliation with Friends United Meeting. The Minute finally approved essentially says that SEYM will suspend its membership in FUM for two years. If SEYM cannot agree to stay in FUM at the end of the two years, we will withdraw. The complete Minute is on the SEYM website (www.seym.org)

A yearly meeting inter-visitation committee is encouraging members to visit other meetings. Two people would go together. Anyone who would like to visit should write a paragraph about what they're able to present and send it to Jean L.

The 49<sup>th</sup> Minute approved this year states that Gainesville Monthly Meeting allows the serving of beer and wine at meals approved by the hospitality committee.

Laura and Jim W. offer a fabulous Flagler Beach day on June 23. Please let Laura know if you are coming. Bring food to share.

The nominating committee report (proposed 07-08), which will be completed by next month, follows:

**Officers:**

**Clerk:** Jean Larson

**Assistant Clerk:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Recording Clerk:** Betty Odum

**Treasurer:** Bill Mitchell

**Corresponding Clerk:** Sybil Brennan

**Membership Recorder:** Annie McPherson

**Committees:**

**Ministry and Nurture:** Clerk – Connie Ray, Karen Porter, Walter Morris, Arnold von der Porten, Annie McPherson

**\*Pastoral Care sub-committee:** Sybil Brennan, David Chalmers, Arnold von der Porten, Morrie Trimmer

**Newsletter and Website:** Editor – Catherine Puckett, Asst. Editor – \_\_\_\_\_, John Burton, Distribution - Annie McPherson, Web Site - Bill Mitchell

**Peace and Social Concerns:** Clerk – Jim Morrison, Dick Beardsley, Gene Beardsley, Mona Morris, Walter Morris, Tim Fogarty, Hap Taylor

**Quaker Earthcare Witness:** Clerk - Dick Beardsley, Arlene Epperson, Walter Morris, Gene Beardsley, Karen Arrington, Hap Taylor, Jen Cotter

**Meeting House:** Clerk – Walter Morris Asst Clerk - \_\_\_\_\_ Dick Beardsley, Bud Brennan, Morrie Trimmer, Laura Winefordner

**Grounds:** Clerk - \_\_\_\_\_ Phil Buskirk, Bud Brennan, Brad Thompson, Bill Mitchell

**Hospitality:** Clerk - Mona Morris Asst Clerk - \_\_\_\_\_, Sybil Brennan, Karen Arrington, Jean Burton,

**Religious Education:** Clerk – Laura Winefordner, Karen Kilgore, Catherine Puckett, Odalis Manduley

**Bible Study:** Ellie and Larry Clayton, Mona Morris

**Forum Coordinator:** Tim Fogarty

**Library:** Clerk - Betty Odum, Gene Beardsley, Arlene Epperson, Jean Burton

**Finance & Budget:** Clerk – Morrie Trimmer (Auditor), Treasurer, Fundraising Com. Rep, M&N Rep

**Fundraising Committee:** Clerk – Walter Morris, Asst Clerk - \_\_\_\_\_, Mona Morris

**Ad Hoc:**

**School Committee:** Clerk - \_\_\_\_\_, Laura Winefordner, Karen Kilgore, Jeannie Buskirk, Marylynn Hall, Jean Larson

**Worship Sharing After Meeting:** Dick Beardsley, Sybil Brennan

**Representatives:**

**SEYM:** Sybil Brennan, Connie Ray

**FGC:** Gene Beardsley

**Campus Ministry:** Clerk or Clerk of M&N

**Around the Meetinghouse:** In the spring, Jeannie B. and I saw the hog plum (*Prunus umbrellata*) just south of the front retention pond blooming. This week I noticed that it has small plums on it. Yesterday Bill handed me two blueberries from one of the native *Vaccinium darrowii* planted behind the split rail fence - they were small, flavorful, and reminded me of some blueberries I had picked with my cousins in a sandy area of Maine and made into blueberry pie.

I have been enjoying the creamy white magnolia blossoms, both on the *Magnolia grandiflora* and on the sweet bay magnolia. They are showy blooms, but there are small rewards also, like the lovely blue globes of the eryngo (*Eryngium baldwinii* or *Eryngium prostratum*), a creeping plant volunteering in the front retention basin. I was delighted when Karen A. pointed out a passion vine growing in the front retention basin, since this vine is a host plant for the Florida state butterfly, the zebra longwing.

We have a number of larval host plants on the property. The saw palmetto hosts monk skippers, oaks host dusky wing skippers and white-M hairstreaks, sweet bay magnolia hosts tiger swallowtails, the frog fruit creeping in our grass hosts common buckeyes and phaon crescents, coontie hosts Florida atalas, Spanish needles hosts dainty sulphurs, pepper grass hosts great southern whites and checkered whites, hackberry trees host hackberry butterflies, and the American elm hosts the snout butterflies, question marks, and tawny emperors.

We have some nectar plants as well, including ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*) and Stoke's aster (planted by Karen A.), tread softly volunteering in some of our parking bays and other places, fire bush resprouting after dying back in the winter in the front garden and in the educational garden, phlox and lyre leaf sage in the front retention basin, and tropical sage (native) returning to the front garden (where it was planted by Karen A.), sparkleberries, and most recently, the wild ageratum (*Conoclinium coelestinum*) planted by the children. It would be nice to have some butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). (Jean L.)

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### **The Creation of the Inaudible**

Maybe no one can distinguish which voice  
Is god's voice sounding in a summer dusk  
Because he calls with the same rising frequency,  
The same rasp and rattling rustle the cicadas use  
As they cling to the high leaves in the glowing  
Dust of the oaks.

His exclamations might blend so precisely with the  
final  
Crises of the swallows settling before dark  
That no one will ever be able to say with certainty,  
"That last long cry winging over the rooftop  
Came from god."

Breathy and low, the vibrations of his nightly  
Incantations could easily be masked by the scarcely  
Audible hush of the lakeline dealing with the rocky  
shore,  
And when a thousand dry sheaths of rushes and  
thistles

Stiffen and shiver in an autumn wind, anyone can  
imagine  
How quickly and irretrievably his whisper might be  
lost.

Someone faraway must be saying right now:  
The only unique sound of his being  
Is the spoken postulation of his unheard presence.

For even if he found the perfect chant this morning  
And even if he played the perfect strings to  
accompany it,  
Still, no one could be expected to know,  
Because the blind click beetle flipping in midair,  
And the slider turtle easing through the black iris  
bog,  
And two savannah pines shedding dawn in staccato  
pieces  
Of falling sun are already engaged in performing  
The very same arrangement themselves.

- *Pattiann Rogers*

## JUNE 2007 GFM CALENDAR

All 1 <sup>st</sup> -Days	11 a.m.	Meeting for Worship, Gainesville Friends Meetinghouse, 702 NW 38 <sup>th</sup> St, Gainesville, Fla.
All 1 <sup>st</sup> -Days	11:15 a.m.	First-Day School
June 2	All Day	Host SEYM Executive Committee Meeting
June 3	9:30 a.m.	Library, Hospitality, and Meetinghouse Committee Meetings
June 3	Rise of Meeting	Forum: School Committee
June 5	11:30 a.m.	Friendly Lunch at Books, Inc., 505 NW 13 <sup>th</sup> St. (all welcome)
June 6	7-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication Group (see newsletter)
June 9	10-11:30 a.m.	De-escalating Violence: Conflict Resolution/Mediation – at Westminster Presbyterian (see newsletter)
June 10	9:15 a.m.	Quakerism 101
June 10	12:45 p.m.	Meeting for Worship for Business
June 11	5 p.m.	School Committee
June 15	7 p.m.	Movie Night at Burton's home (see newsletter)
June 17	9:30 a.m.	Meeting for Worship in Nature
June 17	Rise of Meeting	Potluck
June 17	12:45 p.m.	Earthcare Witness Committee; see newsletter for activity
June 20	7-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication Group (see newsletter)
June 23	Whenever!	Beach Day at Laura's and Jim's (see newsletter)
June 23	10-11:30 a.m.	De-escalating Violence: Personal Safety Skills at Westminster Presbyterian (see newsletter)
June 23	6 p.m.	Newsletter Submission Deadline; email or mail to newsletter editor, C. Puckett
June 24	9:30 a.m.	Peace and Social Concerns Committee
June 24	12:30 p.m.	Bible Study
June 30-July 7		FGC Gathering – University of Wisconsin, River Falls, Wisc. Theme is "But Who is My Neighbor?"
July 1	9:30 a.m.	Hospitality, Meetinghouse, and Library Committees
July 3	11:30 a.m.	Friendly Lunch at Books, Inc., 505 NW 13 <sup>th</sup> St. (all welcome)

**Unless noted, meetings are at the GF Meetinghouse.**

### Queries and Advice for the Sixth Month: Home, Family, and Relationships

**Queries:** Do we make our home a place where love, peace, happiness, friendship, and refreshment of spirit are found, and where the presence of God is experienced? *Do all members of our family receive our affection and understanding?* Do we take care that responsibilities outside the home do not encroach upon the time and loving attention our family needs? *Do we acknowledge and support all relationships and families, whether conventional or not, that are based on love and commitment?* Does our family set aside First Day and other times for worship, service, rest and refreshment of spirit?

**Advice:** Live in love and learn from one another. *Try to live simply.* In our family life, encourage reliance upon God's guidance and help for each day's needs. *Remember the value of beauty in all its forms.* God's gifts are for all to enjoy; learn to use them wisely.