

# 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, EIGHTH MONTH, 2008**

**JEAN LARSON, CLERK**

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### **QUERIES for the Eighth Month: PERSONAL INTEGRITY AND RIGHT ACTION**

Queries: Do we keep to simplicity and moderation in speech, manner of living and vocation? Do we make time in our day for silence, solitude, spiritual reflection and the growth of our inner life? Do we remind ourselves each day of our connections with people, other creatures and all that sustains life? Are we ready to live in the Spirit that heals estrangements that may arise from resentment, nagging fears, and alienation from others? Do we listen to others, even beyond words, being sensitive to their personal needs and difficulties? Are we free from the use of judicial oaths, thus affirming that our statement is only part of our usual integrity of speech? Do we regard our possessions as given to us in trust and do we part with them freely for the needs of others? Are we careful to keep our jobs and social activities from absorbing time and energy that need to be given to spiritual growth and service to others? Do we stay tender and open to the leadings of the Spirit?

Advice: Use our capabilities and possessions as God's gifts entrusted to us to share with others in humility, courtesy and affection. Accept and encourage the creativity in others. When we have a choice of employment, choose that which gives the fullest opportunity for the use of our talents in the service of others. Be willing to seek, and be faithful to, God's will. Remember that we are all one in God.

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

**Would you like to get the newsletter via email? Contact Annie**

## Around the Meetinghouse

By Jean Larson ◦ July 21, 2008

At the end of June, after we had some good rain, the air potatoes started to shoot up trees and grow beautiful big heart shaped leaves. Bill has done a remarkable job at removing the air potatoes from the property. I did not appreciate how good a job until we went on a walk around the property and the incredible difference in the concentration and size of the vines just south of our south boundary. We also walked a short way up the continuation of the ditch by Shir Shalom above NW 8th Avenue. It runs between backyards for a goodly distance and some of our neighbors to the north have substantial air potato infestations. We also wandered in the neighborhoods near the corner of NW 8th Avenue and NW 43rd Street where the Royal Park Creek crosses NW 8th Avenue. In two subdivisions we saw neighbors enjoying their proximity to the creek, and it looked like some care had been taken to limit the growth of air potatoes. There were a few highly visible infestations.

Since we have had substantial rains, the water has pushed the sand around on our property finding new ways to move ever down hill. Dead trees have fallen changing the obstacles the water moves around. Many times when I walk in the woods I take a bucket with me in which to collect trash. Looking closely for unusual colors and shapes, sometimes I find beautiful mushrooms like the one Bill photographed or the wings of a Luna moth whose time was spent.



The growth spurts put out by many of the plants are quite impressive. The butterflyweed I bought at the Master Gardener sale (grown by



Gary Arthur) has gone from small sprouts to plants easily visible from the foyer. The seven sisters rose donated by Bart Hulett grew so much that Bill stretched wires for a simple trellis on which it is happily climbing. The well-established rose next to it has been putting on quite a show with multiple blooms. The front retention pond has gone from a fairly open place to one with lots of interesting plants to attract our attention.

Karen A. has been weeding in the wild flower garden open up places where grass has been going wild to allow for more flowers and native plants.

Two *Rudbeckia lancinata* (Cutleaf coneflower) are blooming under the wax myrtles, but you need to look close or you will not notice them. The St. Andrews cross (*Hypericum hypericoides*) is blooming with its delicate yellow four petal flowers both in the front retention basin and near the grandfather oak.

Small flowers reward our close attention as well. The butterfly milk weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), a compact Florida native that came back from being planted last year put out some lovely orange blossoms which the bees found very interesting. It is surrounded by Dune sunflowers (*Helianthus debilis*) that are spreading wildly in with the yellow anise. Some purple cone flowers planted in the children's yard have been garnering their own share of attention from the butterflies.





I have especially enjoyed the flowers of the Loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*) this past month. They look a bit like small magnolia blossoms but are actually a member of the Tea family. When they fall to the ground they form soft balls of white petals and I see them as I water the ferns I planted in the back retention pond.

**Photos by Bill Mitchell**



This is some bracket fungi from just east of the worship in nature area.



Wax Myrtle



Coral Bean

# MEETING NEWS AND NOTES

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**Quaker Study Program:** The Quaker Study program will meet at the Meeting House, Friday August 29, 6pm potluck, 7pm discussion led by Betty Odum and Cheryl Demers-Holton. The topic is: “we Quakers and race relations.” We will probe our personal and meetings’ beliefs, feelings and actions. One of the SEYM race relations committee’s goals is to make our Friends Meetings more welcoming. Betty will put out a variety of books and papers for you to peruse and borrow; if you have other references, please add them. (*Betty Odum*)

**Quaker Yard Sale:** Saturday, August 23, 8:00 - 10:00am

Please bring gently used items (no clothing, please) to the meetinghouse on Sunday, August 17. If you don't have a key and you need to get into the meetinghouse to bring items during the week of August 17-22, please call me at 372-3972 to make plans for me to meet you there.

**HELP:** On Friday, August 22 we need to sort and get items ready to put onto tables. On Saturday morning we need early birds to help before 8:00am for set up. We need a cashier during the sale. At 10:00am we need help with take down and taking leftovers to the Salvation Army.

We can have fun, make some \$ for the building fund and provide a service to those needing what we have for sale. Laura 372-3972 or 262-1051 or [laura34@bellsouth.net](mailto:laura34@bellsouth.net)

**Outreach:** Thanks to all who contribute non-perishable food and toiletries for the **Gainesville Community Ministries** pantry. The group is grateful for all that we supply, especially in these times when the high cost of gasoline and food has caused many fewer items to be donated. Our contributions matter! Please continue to help. (*Laura & Jim Winefordner*)

**Meeting News:** It is with great sadness that we report the death of *George Newkirk* on Wednesday, July 2. George had been a member of our meeting since 1972 and actively participated in monthly and yearly meetings. There will be two Memorial Meetings for Worship; one to be held in early to mid August for extended family and local Friends, and one to be held by our meeting for the wider Quaker community in the fall.

*Andy Merritt*, husband of member Eleanor Merritt, and in whose home we have enjoyed Christmas parties, has suffered a massive stroke and is now receiving multiple therapies to good effect. Eleanor reports that visits are important for his healing.

*Phyllis Sherman* hyper extended her knee in an accident this spring. This summer she is getting physical therapy and needed rest.

**Hold in the Light:** Maria-Elena Newkirk, Andy and Eleanor Merritt (“We’re in this together.”), Phyllis Sherman, Tak Hayakawa, Morrie Trimmer, Phil Klein, Phil Hall and family.

**Ministry & Nurture:** If you are having a problem or if you think that someone else in the meeting community is having a problem, please remember that Ministry and Nurture Committee and the Pastoral Care Subcommittee are here to help. We are not professional counselors, but seasoned Friends with listening skills. We will see if the meeting can take care of some needs. The list of people on committees is posted in the upper left-hand corner of the foyer bulletin board.

Also on the bulletin board there is a card from the Morris’ and letters to the editor by David Chalmers and Betty Odum.

**Quakerism 101:** Everyone is invited to attend the next session on Sunday, August 10 at 9:15 a.m. in the meetinghouse library. Since no one was able to attend in July, we will continue our study of the Quaker Testimonies. Suggested readings for this session are from Howard Brinton's Friends for 300/350 Years: "Equality" and "Simplicity" found in Chapter 7 "The Meeting Community," and "The Method of Nonviolence" found in Chapter 8 "The Meeting and the World."

**Questions for reflection:** With which testimonies do you most resonate? Are there any testimonies which make you uncomfortable? Why? Have you broken the law on grounds of conscience? If so, describe why you acted as you did. What has come to you in worship that you know to have been a leading from God, causing you to live out a testimony in the outer world? Of the historic testimonies of peace, equality, simplicity and integrity, which ones do I know from my own experience to be Truth? How am I held accountable for my witness? How do I know I have been faithful?

**Southeastern Yearly Meeting:** We have received a request from the Friends United Meeting Discernment Group to host an all-day worship sharing on a Saturday. Ministry and Nurture will present this request to business meeting in November with the request that we consider the February date if it is still available. Please be thinking about this request and whether a worship sharing experience would be something helpful in defining our concerns about our affiliation with FUM.

**Friends World Committee for Consultation:** The latest Friends World News has an article about relief in Kenya showing the ways that many Friends groups have come to the aid of people in the Internally Displaced People camps. There is also an article about an earthquake in the province of South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo where several Friends' homes were destroyed. There is an appeal out to church groups and private benefactors for rebuilding and humanitarian relief. FWCC is working with Evangelical Friends Missions to raise money. Donations may be sent to EFM, P.O. Box 525, Arvada CO 80001 marked "Congo earthquake relief."

Gainesville Friends Meeting is sponsoring an **Ichetucknee River tubing trip for SEYM teens** on (preferably) Aug. 9 or Aug. 16. The plan is that the teens will arrive in Gainesville on Friday, go tubing all day Saturday and have the option on Sunday of attending meeting or driving home. Catherine Puckett and other Friends in the Meeting have volunteered to lodge teens and their parents.

For more information, please contact Catherine at 352-275-2639 or 352-284-4832.

We do think it would be necessary for each teen to have either a parent or a sponsor.

#### EIGHTH MONTH 2008 GFM CALENDAR

8/3/08	Sun	9:30am	Library Committee meeting
8/5/08	Tues	11:45am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc
8/6/08			Anniversary of the Bombing of Hiroshima
8/9/08			Anniversary of the Bombing of Nagasaki
8/10/08	Sun	9:15am	Quakerism 101
8/16/08	Sat		SEYM Tubing Trip at the Ichetucknee (or 8/9)
8/23/08	Sat	8am	Yard Sale to benefit the Meetinghouse Fund
8/25/08			September newsletter deadline – anniemcp@bellsouth.net
8/29/08	Fri	6pm	Quaker Study Program
9/2/08	Tues	11:45am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc
9/3/08	Wed	7pm	Non-Violent Communication (Jeannie Buskirk)
9/16/08	Tues	7pm	GI Rights Hotline meeting (Karen Porter)

Unless noted, meetings are at the GF Meetinghouse.