

# 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

---

**NEWSLETTER, FIRST MONTH, 2008**

**JEAN LARSON, CLERK**

---

*Editor:* Catherine Puckett, [catherinepuckett@bellsouth.net](mailto:catherinepuckett@bellsouth.net) 352-472-6340

---

### **Queries and Advice for the First Month: Meeting for Worship**

**Query:** Are our Meetings for Worship held in expectant waiting for Divine guidance, with a living silence in which we feel drawn together in the Light by the presence of God? *Do we respond to the Spirit's prompting to minister, whether in silence, through the spoken word or through action after the Meeting for Worship?*

Are we sensitive to one another's needs in Meeting for Worship? *Are the spiritual gifts within the Meeting fostered and encouraged?* Are our Meetings accessible and welcoming to everyone? *Are our Meetings a source of strength and guidance for daily living?* Is the vocal ministry in our Meetings exercised under the leading of the Spirit?

**Advice:** Be prompt and diligent in attendance at Meetings. Come to Meeting with expectant hearts and minds prepared for communion with God. Be faithful, be patient, and persevere in our service as messengers of Truth. To everyone is given a share of the responsibility for the Meeting for Worship, whether through silence or through the spoken word. Quiet our hearts and minds for worship prior to entering the meeting room, so the whole group can be knit together in spiritual fellowship. Do not assume that vocal ministry is never to be our part. Be ready to speak under the leading of the Light. Learn to recognize when a message felt within is from God, and if it is a message intended for the group to hear. Pray that our ministry may arise from deep experience of the Divine. Let our spoken ministry be audible and free from unnecessary words.

Avoid speaking in a manner that brings a sense of discussion or debate. Allow for a period of silence after a message has been spoken, so the group can reflect on what has been said and continue to be grounded in silent worship. Overly long or too-frequent messages can hinder the worship of others present. Receive the ministry of others in a tender spirit. Treat every newcomer as one sent by God.

**Never cease loving a person, and never give up hope for him, for even the prodigal son who had fallen most low, could still be saved; the bitterest enemy and also he who was your friend could again be your friend; love that has grown cold can kindle again. (Soren Kierkegaard)**

## MEETING NOTES AND PROGRAMS

**January's Quakerism 101:** Everyone is invited to participate in this Philadelphia Yearly Meeting course of study held every second Sunday at 9:15 a.m. (next session, Sunday, Jan. 13) in the meetinghouse library. O.K., so the first 15 minutes are for socializing, starting the coffee, and opening the meetinghouse. We will start with a "lecture" covering these topics: "How do you 'center down'?", "How do you know when to speak?," and "What can you do to promote a 'gathered' Meeting?" Interruptions for questions or comments are encouraged. All are encouraged to respond to each other from their own experience and reading. Readings for January include John Punshon, *Encounter with Silence*, pp. 22-28, 58-65, 74-9; Thomas Kelly, "*The Gathered Meeting*;" and Howard Brinton, chapters 4-5. In addition to these, many good books include material on Friends' worship including Douglas Steere's *Gleanings*, Thomas Kelly's *A Testament of Devotion*, and Samuel Bownas' *A Description of the Qualifications Necessary to a Gospel Minister*, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century journal that describes the inner transformation undergone by Friends of his era as they sought to be faithful to leadings of the Spirit, especially regarding vocal ministry. [Some of these books are available in the meeting library. "The Gathered Meeting" is a tract that is available in the pamphlet rack in the foyer. To order your own copies from Friends General Conference: [quakerbooks.org](http://quakerbooks.org); 1-800-966-4556]

*Questions for Reflection:* Have you ever been in a "gathered" Meeting for Worship? What was the Meeting like? How would you describe such an experience of worship to someone who hasn't experienced it? Are there things Friends can do to help bring about a "gathered" Meeting? Do you pray? Are there ways that personal, private prayer can enrich the Quaker community and its Meeting for Worship? Do you see yourself as a "minister"? It is said that Friends abolished to laity, and we are all ministers. How do you respond? Name several different forms of "ministry" among Friends. Describe a time when you ministered, or were ministered to, in a positive way. *Sharing is voluntary.* Sharing does, however, help build a strong faith community, and is always appreciated. (*Connie Ray*)

**Quaker Study Program:** Everyone is welcome to join us for an evening of fellowship and learning at the home of Phil and Jeannie Buskirk in McIntosh on Friday, Jan. 25. We gather at 6 p.m. for a potluck supper with the program following. This month we will be treated to a presentation by Bart Hulett on the topic of "Radical Christianity," of which Quakerism is a part, historically. Bart is an ordained Baptist minister and an attender of our meeting. For directions, see the small map on the calendar on the "Quaker News" bulletin board in the foyer, or ask. (*Connie Ray*)

**Nonviolent Communications:** All are invited to the Nonviolent Communication (NVC) study and practice group, which will meet at the meetinghouse on Jan. 2, 16, and 30. We 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). Some familiarity with his book is recommended. For more information, contact Jeannie Buskirk, 352-591-0677 or [ejbuskirk@windstream.net](mailto:ejbuskirk@windstream.net) (*Jeannie Buskirk*)

**Christian Peacemaker Forum:** S. Morris Trimmer, son of Morrie Trimmer and Betty Odum will show Christian Peacemaker slides at the Dec. 30 Forum, following the rise of meeting.

**Celebration of New Life Forum:** The Forum on Jan. 6 (12:45 to 2 p.m.) will focus on celebrating new life. Several of our members and attenders or their children will be having children joining their families in the coming months, and we would like to celebrate these beginnings.

**Meeting for Worship in Nature** meets 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>. Follow the path around the south side of the retaining pond by the grassy parking area, and then south into the bower. Bring something upon which to sit.

**Movie Night:** Movie night will be on Friday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. at the home of John and Jean Burton, 2775 NW 106th Way, Gainesville. We will be showing *The Mission*, a very dramatic and moving film about a successful Jesuit Mission deep in the jungle of Brazil, ultimately destroyed by the greed of merchants and political factions

in the Church. The movie has beautiful scenery and photography, is rich in imagery, and moving in its showing of the best and the worst of human motives and actions. Bring your friends. Discussion and refreshments after the film. (*Jim Morrison*)

**JANUARY 12, 2008**  
**6:00 PM**  
**GAINESVILLE FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE**

**THE QUAKER SOULFOOD MENU**

STEWED CHICKEN & MEAT LOAF  
POTATO SALAD & BAKED BEANS  
BLACK-EYED PEAS & COLLARD GREENS  
CORN BREAD  
SWEET POTATO PIE, RED VELVET CAKE & CARROT CAKE  
TEA, LEMONADE, BEER, COFFEE

**SPIRITUAL SING-ALONG**  
**DISPLAY OF AFRICAN ART**

SUGGESTED DONATIONS: \$10 A MEAL  
\$100 OF THE DONATIONS GO TO THE MEETING BUILDING FUND  
THE REMAINDER TO THE CULTURAL ARTS COALITION

**PLEASE SIGN UP FOR YOUR COOKING ASSIGNMENTS**

SEE OR CALL BETTY ODUM (378-8172) OR KAREN ARRINGTON

~~~~~

## healing

(by Scott Edward Anderson; published in *Elegant Thorn Review*)

*"Healing, not saving." ~ Gary Snyder*

"Healing, not saving," for healing  
indicates corrective, reclaiming

restoring the earth to its bounty,  
to right placement and meaning--

Forward thinking, making things new  
or better or, at least, bringing back

from the edge. The way  
bulbs are nestled in earth,

starting to heal again--

the way a wound heals.

Keep warm. Sun following  
rain; rain following drought.

Perhaps we have come far enough  
along in this world to start

healing, protecting from harm,  
from our disjunctive lives.

The way the skin repairs with a scab,  
injury mediated by mindfulness.

The bark of the "tree of blood"  
heals wounds we cannot see.

*Deliver us from the time of trial  
and save us from ourselves.*

## Meeting News

**Hold in the Light:** Tak Hayakawa, Gene Beardsley, Mary Sue Adams, Devender Sellars-Braly, Morrie Trimmer, Phil Klein, George Newkirk, and the Blaisdale family.

**Celebrating Sixty Years:** Congratulations to Amy and Arnold von der Porten, whose 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary is on Jan. 4, 2008.

### **Pendle Hill Programs:**

- **Recording: Spiritual Discipline and Communal Gift** led by Mario Cavallini January 11-13.
- **Building and Holding Space for Young Friends** February 8-10.
- **Praying with Francis of Assisi and George Fox** led by Marcelle Martin February 1-3.
- **Prayer: No Strings Attached** led by Chris Ravndal February 22-24
- **John's Gospel: A New Translation for Quakers and Other Contemplatives** led by Chris Ravndal February 18-22
- **Befriending Paul** led by Chris Ravndal February 25-29.

These programs are held at Wallingford, Penn. Weekends are \$275 or \$330. Week-long programs are \$540 or \$635. Matching scholarships are available. Southeastern Yearly Meeting has funds available. (800) 742-3150 ext. 3, [registrar@pendlehill.org](mailto:registrar@pendlehill.org), [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org). For local funds contact Wendy Geiger at [ulalf@juno.com](mailto:ulalf@juno.com).

**Friends United Meeting** has invited us to participate in their “**Chain of Prayer**” again this coming year. They have sent us information about the difficulties of Palestinians and of FUM’s mission in Ramallah. Included in the latest issue of “FOCUS” was a blurb from mennolink.org about how difficult it would be if Mary and Joseph were to try to make a journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem today. Bethlehem is surrounded on three sides by the Israeli separation barrier, including being separated from Jerusalem to the north.

The theme of the 2008 “Chain of Prayer” is “Yes, United!” Ministry and Nurture has responded in this way: “We unite with Friends United Meeting in its mission in Ramallah and with the efforts of all Friends’ organizations to promote peace in the Middle East and justice for Palestinians. Look forward to a day of celebrating Middle Eastern culture, learning more about the Middle East and Friends programs there, and ways to make a difference.” (date not yet set) (*Connie Ray*)

**Wise Men Stumped:** Assuming Mary and Joseph could find an opening in the Israeli separation barrier, perhaps through an Israeli settlement, Herod would have to give very clear instructions to the wise men as to how to get around this barrier when they left Jerusalem for Bethlehem. Wise men (and women) are still seeking Peace on Earth, Goodwill Towards Men (and Women). The Israeli separation barrier is not helping. (*Connie Ray*)

**War is not the Answer:** Dear Friends, As this holiday season approaches and we at FCNL prepare for our winter recess, I wanted to thank you, FCNL’s fantastic yard sign distributors, for contributing so greatly to the success of the “War is not the Answer” campaign. Thanks to you, in 2007 we’ve distributed 11,560 signs, more than we did in 2005 (3,150) and 2006 (5,193) combined. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 there were only 170 distributors around the country. Now, there are 360 of you distributing in 244 congressional districts throughout all 50 states.

Your work is making a huge difference. Every day, more and more people see the message that “War is Not the Answer” and ask “What is?” More people join FCNL’s network and begin imploring U.S. legislators to take positive steps towards changing both foreign and domestic policy. You are connecting tens of thousands of

people to FCNL's work and starting healthy, respectful dialogue that can overcome the divisive misunderstanding, mistrust, and anger that plagues the political atmosphere in our country today. Don't forget to keep sending those pictures of "War is Not the Answer" signs to me through [www.warisnottheanswer.com](http://www.warisnottheanswer.com)!

Thank you so much for your dedication and passion. Have a wonderful holiday season. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year. In Peace, Nick (Nicholas Bauer, Campaigns Program Assistant, Friends Committee on National Legislation; <http://www.fcnl.org/ppdc/> )

### **Gleanings from December's Quakerism 101:**

Some of the questions we considered included:  
What "happens" during Meeting for Worship?  
What do we "do?" What happens to us spiritually?

#### **From the discussion:**

We push out all the outside world, perhaps with a mantra, and center ourselves so that we can hear that still, small voice. Like a bubbling brook, you can't hear it until you become silent. We center for a spiritual connection to a higher power, to experience the creator and the creative force.

The basic concept is of being still and knowing that God is God, to understand where God is, and to have a personal experience of God.

There is a deep sense of relief in the silence, being in the "now" moment where one can experience strength and hope. We can know that every day is a new beginning. We can be "born again." We can experience the perfect Light. We can realize that "I am not God," "live and let live.," and "to thine own self be true."

Holding someone in the Light enables us to consider what things people are doing in their lives. It helps us get ideas for what we can do for the people we hold in the Light and for what we can do with our own lives. We ask, "What is the next right thing to do?" toward others, for ourselves, and as a group.

We consider, "What is my story?" and speak the truth of our experience that we can all understand. Messages are expressed from daily living experiences with no cross-talk. Anyone can speak a truth, and it resonates. Sometimes a message so resonates with the meeting that other messages follow from that.

Sometimes we are all connected in the silence, a priesthood of believers, with a community experience of God. In a community dedicated to the Inner Light, a higher power, sharing of the faith is important. A faith that is shared creates personal relationships and a strong sense of community. It helps us to know that we have experienced God whether alone or in others.

#### **From the "lecture:"**

"The Meeting for Worship is a corporate experiment of communion with God . . . the purpose of a Meeting for Worship is to experience the presence of God, and discover what God is calling us to do." "Each of us, in each Meeting for Worship, has to find our own way. John Punshon wrote that we are all at the beginning – every time we come into God's presence." Pp. 30 – 31, *Quakerism 101* (Connie Ray)

---

**Try a little consecrated Zen. Do one thing at a time, with complete, immediate mindfulness. Don't do it to get it done so you can get on to the next thing. Do it for love. Do it fully, sensitively, openly. Do it now. Then do the next thing. (Jerry May)**

**Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be. (Thomas à Kempis)**



## JANUARY 2008 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                                                                                                |
| Dec. 30                   | 12:30 – 2 P.M.   | CHRISTIAN PEACEMAKERS FORUM                                                                                     |
| Jan. 2                    | 7 – 8:30 p.m.    | Nonviolent Communication Group ( <i>see newsletter</i> )                                                        |
| Jan. 6                    | 9:30 a.m.        | Library and Meetinghouse Committees Meet                                                                        |
| Jan. 6                    | 12:30 p.m.       | Celebration of New Life Forum ( <i>see newsletter</i> )                                                         |
| Jan. 7                    | 7 p.m.           | Yoga with Gary                                                                                                  |
| Jan. 8                    | 11:30 a.m.       | Friendly lunch at Books, Inc.                                                                                   |
| Jan. 12                   | 10-11:30 a.m.    | Solutions to Violence: Where Next? (LoraKim Joyner) – at Westminster Presbyterian                               |
| <b>Jan. 12</b>            | <b>6 p.m.</b>    | <b>Quaker Soul-Food Dinner Fundraiser for Arts Coalition with singing of spirituals (<i>see newsletter</i>)</b> |
| Jan. 13                   | 9:15 a.m.        | Quakerism 101                                                                                                   |
| Jan. 13                   | 12:45 p.m.       | Meeting for Worship for Business                                                                                |
| Jan. 14                   | 5 p.m.           | School Committee                                                                                                |
| Jan. 14                   | 7 p.m.           | Yoga with Gary                                                                                                  |
| Jan. 16                   | 7 to 8:30 p.m.   | Nonviolent Communication Group ( <i>see newsletter</i> )                                                        |
| <b>Jan. 18</b>            | <b>7 p.m.</b>    | <b>Movie Night: <i>The Mission</i> (at Burton's home; <i>see newsletter</i>)</b>                                |
| Jan. 19 and 20            |                  | Winter SEYM Interim Business Meeting in Orlando; Michener lecture by Steve Smith                                |
| Jan. 20                   | 9:30 a.m.        | Meeting for Worship in Nature                                                                                   |
| Jan. 20                   | Rise of Meeting  | Meeting Potluck – Please bring a dish to share                                                                  |
| Jan. 20                   | After potluck    | Quaker Earthcare Witness Meeting                                                                                |
| Jan. 21                   | 4:30 p.m.        | Hospitality Committee                                                                                           |
| Jan. 21                   | 5 – 7 p.m.       | Ministry and Nurture Committee                                                                                  |
| Jan. 21                   | 7 p.m.           | Yoga with Gary                                                                                                  |
| Jan. 25                   | 6 p.m.           | Quaker Study Program at Buskirk's home ( <i>see newsletter</i> )                                                |
| Jan. 26                   | 10-11:30 a.m.    | Solutions to Violence -- at Westminster Presbyterian                                                            |
| Jan. 27                   | 9:30 a.m.        | Peace and Social Concerns Committee Meeting                                                                     |
| Jan. 27                   | 12:45 p.m.       | Bible Study                                                                                                     |
| <b>Jan. 28</b>            | <b>DEADLINE</b>  | <b>Deadline to register for SEYM Gathering</b>                                                                  |
| Jan. 28                   | 7 p.m.           | Yoga with Gary                                                                                                  |
| Jan. 30                   | 7 to 8:30 p.m.   | Nonviolent Communication Group ( <i>see newsletter</i> )                                                        |
| <b>Feb. 2</b>             | <b>5:30 p.m.</b> | <b>Chinese Food Potluck and Auction to benefit ProNica and Guatemala Scholarship Fund</b>                       |

Unless noted, meetings are at the GF Meetinghouse.

I glow in the shimmer of the fire's embers,  
I burn in the sun and the moon and the stars.  
The secret Life of Me breathes in the wind  
and holds all things together soulfully.

This is God's voice. (Hildegard of Bingen)