

QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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

Meeting Place: 702 NW 38th St., Gainesville, Fla. 32607

Phone: 352-372-1070

NEWSLETTER, SEVENTH MONTH, 2008

JEAN LARSON, CLERK

QUERIES for The Seventh Month: SELF DISCIPLINE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Query: Do we attend Meeting for Worship regularly and punctually? Do we participate in Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business and support it financially and with personal service according to our resources and abilities? Are we conscientious in fulfilling all obligations of state and society that are not contrary to our religious convictions? Are we punctual in keeping promises, just in payment of debts, and honorable in all our dealings? Do we choose recreations that strengthen our physical, mental and spiritual life, avoiding those that may hinder others, our Earth, and ourselves? Do we act responsibly concerning substances and behaviors that can become addictive?

Advice: Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in our hearts, which are the leadings of God. Bring the whole of our life under the healing and ordering of the Holy Spirit, remembering that there is no time but this present. When tempted to do wrong or to despair, call upon God with an open heart, confessing our weaknesses and our needs. Be mindful at all times of our connection with the Divine and others – avoid substances, behaviors and activities which diminish this connection. Be aware of the ill effects of mind-altering or habit-forming drugs, intoxicants, gambling, and other detrimental practices. Choose recreations that increase our vitality, self-awareness, and peace of mind and strengthen our will to create what is good. Make thoughtful use of our time. Guard ourselves and our children in our choice of print, electronic media and other entertainments. Avoid those that promote violence and disrespect for human beings. Friends, strive to be courteous and responsible while driving.

Newsletter Editor: Annie McPherson anniemcp@bellsouth.net

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

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

MEETING NEWS AND NOTES

News:

Devender Sellars, a member of our meeting and son of Annie McPherson, has won a regional graphics design award in the student category and will be traveling to Kansas City to participate in the national competition.

Walter Morris is recuperating well and would like short visits with Friends.

George Newkirk is on the computer a lot. He loves getting e-mails and short phone calls. If you would like to visit, call ahead and keep the visit short.

Marylynn Hall's family is making a book of memories about Marylynn for her daughters. Write up your memories and send them to her sister Sarah at 1424 NE 7th Terrace 32601.

Annie McPherson's surgery went really well. We were pleased to see her back at Meeting for Worship so soon.

Hold in the Light: Phyllis Sherman, Tak Hayakawa, Morrie Trimmer, Phil Klein, Walter & Mona Morris, Annie McPherson, George Newkirk & family, and Phil, Audrey and Bronwyn Hall.

Worship Reminder: Please try to remember that it is important to stand up when delivering messages. This helps worshippers focus attention on the person speaking and know when someone is about to speak and has finished speaking. Think of it as the Quaker equivalent of the "talking stick." This is especially important for worshippers who are hard of hearing, and more of us are becoming so. The change from the smaller space of our old meetinghouse to our new, larger one means that we have to change our old, comfortable habits that felt right in our limited space. Thank you. (*Connie Ray*)

Quakerism 101: Everyone is invited to join the next session of our study of Quaker Testimonies Sunday, July 13 at 9:15 a.m. We will be meeting in the social room this month, because the Library Committee will be using the library at that time. In this session we will have a worship sharing/ discussion on our testimonies. The questions for reflection are: 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? (*Connie Ray*)

Quaker Study Program: We will gather for a potluck supper at the home of Karen and Jim Porter on Friday, July 11 at 6 p.m. Jeannie Buskirk will lead us in a sharing of faith statements. Call Karen or Jim at 374-8689 if you need directions.

Pendle Hill Workshops: July 13-17 "Patterns of Wholeness: Exploring the Art of Mosaic" with Carol Sexton. July 20-24 "Deep Calling Deep: Imaging your Life Story" with June-Etta Chenard. July 27-31 "Make Your Spirit Visible Through Painting" with Helen David Brancato. For more information: (800) 742-3150, www.pendlehill.org

Friends United Meeting Triennial Sessions: July 9-13 High Point, North Carolina. Keynote speaker: John Punshon, Britain Yearly Meeting, author of Encounter with Silence. Landrum Bolling, President Emeritus of Earlham College will also be a main speaker. For more information: Myra Brady at mwbrady@rtmc.net, (336)381-3590 home, (336) 625-1700 work. Downloadable registration forms are available at www.fum.org. (Devender Sellars will be attending as our Southeastern Yearly Meeting representative.)

The First-day School thanks the Earthcare Witness Committee, clerked by Dick Beardsley, for



constructing and situating the bird bath and bird feeder where everyone can enjoy watching the birds (and squirrels?) enjoying the food and water. *Hannah Fetko* made a crayon picture of the scene; the original is on the Earthcare Witness bulletin board.

Catherine Puckett is working on arrangements for the **SEYM teens** to have a late July or an early August Saturday fun day of tubing down the Ichetucknee River. We may be asking for overnight hospitality for some of the participants and their parents.

Yard Sale: This event is being planned for Saturday, August 23, shortly after students arrive for the fall term. (The yard sale is not to be confused with the November 8 Fall Bazaar and Craft Sale.) Please save your gently used, or no longer used, items (but not clothing) for this fund-raiser for the meetinghouse. Items can be brought to the meetinghouse during the week August 10-15, but not before that, because we don't have storage space. For information please contact Laura 372-3972 or laura34@bellsouth.net

Celebrate the 4th with Friends! Please join us for a potluck supper and film to celebrate Independence Day at the Meeting House at 6:00 pm. After supper, we will watch the 1972 musical, *1776*. Come early if you would like to take a stroll through the woods.

The **Peace & Social Concerns Committee** is organizing a Forum on Inequality in America on Sunday, July 6, at 12:45 pm. After coffee hour, we will show the Bill Moyers Journal program of June 13, 2008, featuring interviews with Holly Sklar, author of *Raise the Floor*, and Steve Fraser, author of *Every Man a Speculator*, *Wall Street*, etc. The program explores the causes of our growing American economic inequality, its consequences for society, increasing protests (even by many traditional conservatives), and some ideas for what might be done to reverse the trend. *Please join us* for this informative and challenging Moyers program and discussion afterwards of this very important issue—one that will play a central role in the 2008 elections.

Film Night is on July 18th at 7 pm in the Meeting House. Come join us to see “The Diving Bell and the Butterfly,” a remarkable film based on the true-life experiences of the high-flying and bigger-than-life French editor of *Elle*, Jean-Dominique Bauby, who, in an instant, was plunged into the depths of catastrophe that threatened to end his useful life. Faced with a harrowing predicament, he uses his enormous courage and determination and soaring imagination to escape from his trap, and finds a way to write a book and to live again. (Based on the book that Bauby wrote in the hospital.) (*Jim Morrison*)

Around the Meetinghouse



After a long dry spell rain has come, with the first big thunderstorm dumping around three inches of rain. That storm put enough water in the retention ponds to be seen the next day and to put the roots of the royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), at the back of the front retention pond, under water. The lawn, the wax myrtles, the flowers (and the weeds) are growing vigorously with the welcome showers.

The live oaks between the front retention pond and the pond area are putting out fresh growth now that Phil with help from Bill cut down a number of sweet gum trees that were piercing the canopy of the live oaks. Some of this cut wood is piled out by the side of the road until we decide how to deal with it.

The ironweed (*Vernonia*) planted by Karen Arrington has been volunteering in a number of places in the garden and is coming up in the woods as well. She described it as liking to have its feet in the shade and its head in the sun, which it gets in the area with the sparkleberries where she planted it.

Bill bought some simple low wire fencing to enclose the area where the armadillo had been digging and disturbing the hibiscus plants. It has worked well and that little fence is hidden in the surrounding *Bidens* that the bees and butterflies like to visit. We put another such fence around one of the loblolly bays (*Gordonia lasianthus*) because the native ferns I planted around it were also receiving unwanted attention from the worm seeking armadillo. Since I have been watering these ferns, I noticed a St. Andrews Cross (*Hypericum hypericoides*) volunteering nearby in the back retention pond. It is a very small shrub at the moment with a tall stick marking its place. At one point the top of the stick became a landing spot for a jeweled dragonfly. The St. Andrews Cross in the front retention pond has just started flowering.

When we joined the Iranian cyclists in planting the chickasaw plum (*Prunus augustifolia*), the tree was covered with beautiful white blossoms. Now a few plums are ripening, so the tree seems happy where we planted it. On the other side of the path to the meeting for worship in nature area, I added some coonties near some native azaleas given by Annie McPherson. The flame azaleas put on a lovely show this past spring, and the coonties will show up in the winter when the azaleas lose their leaves.



The passion vine is throwing up more shoots by the split rail fence as some of the existing shoots lose their vigor. None of the caterpillars have grown to maturity, but the butterflies are still attracted to the plant. This morning, it put out another of its lovely, complex flowers.

Bill reports that the air potato vines are climbing up the trees. He regularly digs between seven and twelve pounds of the subterranean tubers each Saturday, usually working south of the pond or elsewhere along the south border. Sporadic shoots are coming up in the meeting for worship in nature area and randomly in some of the other well-traveled parts of the land.

The deer's tongue (*Carphephorus*) that Bart Hulett gave us last fall has been coming up vigorously in the children's yard and I recently noticed that one of the gay feather (*Liatris*) plants he gave us has sprouted as well. It had been hidden in plain sight near several goldenrods, and I only noticed it when I went to pull a few weeds. The seven sisters rose he gave us this spring has settled in along the fence not far from our other rose and has extended a shoot upwards which I take as a sign that it is getting comfortable where it is. The blanket flowers have continued to flower profusely both in the children's yard and in the garden near the Peace Pole. They are spilling out from the children's yard onto the ramp and into bike rack area. (*Jean Larson*)



Blueberry picking!!!

A group from the meeting (Sybil Brennan, Larry and Ellie Clayton, Jean Larson and Bill Mitchell, Walter and Mona Morris) met on May 30 to pick blueberries at Bart Hulett's place. We picked in the morning and then gathered together for lunch and fellowship in the shade out by the pond Bart uses for irrigation. We picked three different varieties of blueberries, some known for sweetness, others for being juicy and the third for their intense blueberry flavor. The consensus was that mixing them gave a terrific blend. We thank Bart for donating the u-pick price for our blueberries to the meetinghouse fund. (*Jean Larson*)

Gainesville Friends Meeting – Nominating Committee Report 2008-2009 ♦ Additions

Peace & Social Concerns - Hap Taylor

Quaker Earthcare Witness - Hap Taylor

Grounds - Brad Thompson

Hospitality - Odalis Manduley, Sally Venerable, Carrie Westmark

First Day School - Sheree Sims

Library - Brian Blackmore

Note SEYM Nominated Positions:

SEYM/Assistant Clerk - Gary Arthur

SEYM/PRO-NICA, Board of Directors - Tim Fogarty

Correction: Betty Odum is the convenor of the Nominating Committee

SEVENTH MONTH 2008 GFM CALENDAR

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|---------|---------------------------------|--|
| 7/1/08 | Tues 11:45am 7pm | Friendly Lunch at Books Inc. GI Rights Hotline meeting |
| 7/2/08 | Wed 7-8:30pm | Non-Violent Communication (Jeannie Buskirk) |
| 7/6/08 | Sun 12:45am | Forum “Inequality in America” |
| 7/8/08 | Tues 5pm | Ministry & Nurture Committee meeting |
| 7/11/08 | Fri 6pm | Potluck & Quaker Study Program at the Porters |
| 7/13/08 | Sun 9:15am 9:30am 12:45pm | Quakerism 101 – in social room Library Committee meeting – in library Meeting for Business |
| 7/15/08 | Tues 7pm | GI Rights Hotline meeting (Karen Porter) |
| 7/16/08 | Wed 7-8:30pm | Non-Violent Communication (Jeannie Buskirk) |
| 7/18/08 | Fri 7pm | Film Night “The Diving Bell and the Butterfly” |
| 7/20/08 | Sun 12:30pm | Potluck & Quaker Earthcare Witness |
| 7/21/08 | Mon | August newsletter deadline – anniemcp@bellsouth.net |
| 7/27/08 | Sun 9:30am 12:45pm | Peace and Social Concerns Committee meeting Bible Study |
| 7/30/08 | Wed 7-8:30pm | Non-Violent Communication (Jeannie Buskirk) |
| 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 |
| 8/23/08 | | Yard Sale to benefit the Meetinghouse Fund |
| 8/25/08 | | September newsletter deadline – anniemcp@bellsouth.net |

Unless noted, meetings are at the GF Meetinghouse.