

# **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, TENTH MONTH, 2008**

**JEAN LARSON, CLERK**

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### **QUERIES for the Tenth Month: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

Query: Do we seek to transform the world with our loving spirit? Do we take an active interest in the social & economic conditions of our community? Have we objectively considered the causes of discrimination & are we ready to abandon old prejudices and think anew? Do we, as individuals and as a Meeting, do all in our power to end governmental, social, economic and educational injustices in our community, and to create equal opportunity for all? How do we as individuals and as a Meeting promote the welfare of those in need and work to secure a just distribution of the world's resources? What are we doing as individuals and as a Meeting to understand and remove the causes of war and violence and to develop the conditions and institutions of peace?

Advice: Seek to understand the causes of social ills and work toward their removal. Be not content to accept things as they are, but keep an alert, sensitive, and questioning mind. Understand and maintain Friends' witness for truth, simplicity, and non-violence, holding up your personal life to these testimonies. Encourage inclusiveness and discourage discrimination. Friends' belief in "That of God in Everyone" should lead to reverence for all life and to personal integrity. Encourage all efforts to overcome prejudices and antagonisms. Cherish diversity. Aid and comfort those afflicted or in prison, that they may rebuild their lives. Work for the abolition of the death penalty. Let the way that we live contribute to the realization of a peaceable kingdom on earth.

# MEETING NEWS

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**Hold in the Light:** Connie and Tim Ray, Maria Elena Newkirk, Bill Mitchell and family, Phil Klein and Mary Dewey, Arnold and Amy Von der Porten

**Quakerism 101:** Everyone is invited to join our next discussion on Sunday, October 12th at 9:15 a.m. in the meetinghouse library. The topic is “Meeting for Business”. Readings: *Friends for 300 Years* (or *350 Years*) chapter 6 and, if you are ambitious, *Beyond Majority Rule* by Michael Sheeran. We will start with a lecture.

**Quaker Study Program: Let's go to the beach!!** Our program this month will be at Jeannie Buskirk's home in St. Augustine on October 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 4pm with a potluck and will include a trip to the beach, if Friends so choose. We will be discussing Pendle Hill's pamphlet “12 Quakers and Evil”, which will be available at the Meetinghouse. Jacksonville Friends have been invited to join us!

*“People are welcome to come here any time on Saturday, leave food and belongings, go to the beach, and come back here to shower. I am really looking forward to having Friends here because my connection to the meeting and especially the study group is very important to me..” Jeannie*

**Pendle Hill:** “Youth Workers Training Retreat,” October 10 – 12. “Clerking,” for clerks of meetings and committees and those preparing for that ministry, November 14 – 16. “Just North of Slavery,” a short course exploring the world of African-Americans and Quakers, October 19 – 23. “Envisioning a Moral Economy,” a short course led by Tom Head, November 9 – 13. “Joyful, Quakerly and Carbon Neutral,” November 7-9. “Claiming Our Peace Testimony,” December 5 – 7. Pendle Hill will match a grant from your meeting for up to one-half the fee for a weekend or short course. [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org)

**Welcoming Potluck:** Welcoming Catherine Puckett, Cheryl Demers-Holton and Cecilia Haecker into membership. 6pm at the Porters.

**Quaker Earthcare Witness:** October 19<sup>th</sup> John Woolman's life & words can help us honor the Earth.

**Forum on Creativity & Spirituality:** October 5<sup>th</sup> John Westmark will give a presentation of his work and the relationship between creativity and spirituality. John holds a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute and an MFA from the University of Florida.

**Film Night:** October 17th at 7 pm at the Meeting House, will feature "The Great Debaters," a very moving and entertaining film about a debate team from a small black college that, against all odds, rises to fame and has repeated victories over traditional college debate team legends, including Harvard.

**Yoga** with Gary Monday evenings 6:30-8pm

**Garage Sale:** We had two sales because of rain on the first Saturday. Many items were donated and we had lots of help. Thanks to everyone involved! We made \$334.60 and we provided a service to the customers, to donors who got rid of items they didn't want, and to the Community Ministries Thrift Shop where we took the items we hadn't sold. Computer items do not sell, not even when free. Even charities will not accept them. Such items can be taken to the hazard waste disposal on Waldo Road.

**Fun, Games, & Peace** ♦ October 12, 2008

Jim Porter will share challenging games for teens and pre-teens. Rest periods between games give everyone a chance to discuss how to make life more fun!

# Around the Meetinghouse

By Jean Larson ♦ September 16, 2008



The fall equinox is around the corner, the day (September 22) when the Sun is positioned directly over the Earth's equator on its journey south. With the season changing and the additional rain we have been having, there has been a shift in the plants blooming around the meetinghouse. In the front retention pond the Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) has started displaying its handsome red flowers. Near the entry to the parking area from the street and in the children's yard, the Dune Sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*) and the Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*) have been going to seed.

The Goldenrod (*Solidago stricta*) planted last fall grew to be as tall as the fence along the north boundary in the children's yard is now blooming.



Goldenrod flowers at the same time as common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), which has inconspicuous flowers that cause problems for most people who are allergic to any kind of pollen, according to a recent newspaper article. We have less ragweed this year than last. Even so, I pulled up a substantial patch near the back retention pond where most of the plants were taller than I was. I also uprooted one plant near the coral bean planted by the drive just west of the meeting for worship room. It is the only one I noticed on that side of the drive and it has lots of flowers ready to put out wind driven pollen.



Bill M. and I planted nine blueberry bushes donated by Brad Thompson along the back fence. They join the two rose bushes which continue to flourish. The seven sisters (climbing) rose donated by Bart has been growing vigorously, while the bush rose has grown tall enough that you can be pleasantly surprised by its lovely blooms while washing dishes. The Butterfly milkweed that was covered with hungry monarch caterpillars was devoured to the point of being a series of sticks. Only now is it sprouting back some leaves, with no visible caterpillars.

Still promising blooms to come are the Deer's Tongue (*Carphephorus* spp.) donated by Bart and the neighboring Gayfeather (*liatris* spp.) near the Goldenrod in the children's yard. The fruit which some say looks like a stubby corn cob is beginning to turn color from green toward becoming red.

I was surprised this month by going out one day to walk the trail from the end of the driveway to the creek, then back to the worship in nature area, only to find a new tree down in the section leading to the grandfather oak and the pond. It had died awhile back and had finally uprooted after all the rain loosened the soil around the remains of its roots. The standing dead trees attract insects that our woodpeckers feed on and then enrich the soil when they fall and are composted by the insects and fungi that feed on them.



I was also surprised by some lovely yellow berries on a plant which is a companion for one of the native azaleas planted by Annie McPherson. I plan to keep an eye out for it next year in hope's of seeing it bloom, since that is the best time for identification. Surprises like these are waiting to be discovered in the ever changing setting of our floodplain forest.

## TENTH MONTH 2008 GFM CALENDAR

10/4/08	Sat		SEYM – Interim Business Meeting – St. Petersburg Meeting
10/5/08	Sun	9:30am	Library Committee & Meetinghouse Committee meetings
		1pm	Forum: Creativity & Spirituality – John Westmark
10/6/08	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga with Gary Arthur
10/7/08	Tues	11:45am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc
10/10/08	Fri	6pm	Welcoming Potluck at the Porters
10/12/08	Sun	9:15am	Quakerism 101 – Meeting for Business
		12:45pm	Meeting for Business
10/13/08	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga with Gary
10/17 /08	Fri	7pm	Film Night – The Great Debaters
10/19/08	Sun	9:30am	Singing
		12:30pm	Potluck
			Quaker Earthcare Witness – John Woolman
10/20/08	Mon		September newsletter deadline – <a href="mailto:anniemcp@bellsouth.net">anniemcp@bellsouth.net</a>
		6:30pm	Yoga with Gary
10/25/08	Sat	4pm	Quaker Study Program in St. Augustine
10/26/08	Sun	9:30am	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
		1pm	Bible Study
10/27/08	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga with Gary
11/1/08	Sat	2pm	Memorial Meeting in memory of George Newkirk
11/2/08	Sun	1pm	Forum – Sponsored by Peace & Social Concerns – Topic TBA
11/8/08	Sat		Fall Bazaar and Craft Sale

Unless noted, meetings are at the GF Meetinghouse.

**SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism** Fourteen Friends attended a meeting to consider the call from the SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism. Betty Odum and Cheryl Demers-Holton are members of the SEYM committee. The discussion ranged from consideration of a quiz to measure our own prejudices to queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting and those sent by the SEYM committee. Much of our discussion considered what we could do to be more welcoming to people. Possibilities were discussed. We agreed racism is an issue among Friends, but we will need more discussion before we recommend any group action.

**Peace and Social Concerns:** Our PET (Personal Energy Transporter) project can use a wide variety of items for packing and protecting the completed PET machines: toys, stuffed animals, used golf or tennis balls and empty small plastic medicine bottles. These things we routinely throw away are highly valued and immensely useful in poor communities where people have nothing. Please save these and let us know that you have them and we will announce when to bring them to the Meeting (on a weekend before someone goes up to Penney Farms to volunteer).

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**Newsletter Editor: Annie McPherson** [anniemcp@bellsouth.net](mailto: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**