

# QUAKER NEWSLETTER

## GAINESVILLE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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

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

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**NEWSLETTER, NINTH MONTH, 2008**

**JEAN LARSON, CLERK**

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### QUERIES for the Ninth Month: **Witness**

Queries: Do our lives reflect Quaker testimonies? Are we open and responsive to continuing revelation and do we incorporate it in our spiritual life? Is our Quaker witness characterized by humility and a willingness to learn from others? Do we recognize that the Spirit works in the world through us? Does our witness lead us to the condition in which we “walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone”? Do we as a Meeting try to share in the religious life of our wider community, availing ourselves of opportunities for worship and service with other local religious groups?

Advice: Strive to keep true to the testimonies of integrity and simplicity. Try to keep before us the essential truths, and test our life by them. Endeavor to make our lives consistent with the high principles we profess. This involves the often-difficult discernment not only between good and evil, but also between the better and the best. Live adventurously. Let not failure discourage us. Witness so that others can perceive the presence of God within us. “Be as good as people think you are.” \*

\* Quotation from E. St. John (Jack) Catchpool

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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**

# MEETING NEWS AND NOTES

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**Meeting News:** The meeting joyfully welcomes **Cheryl Demer-Holton** and **Cecilia Haecker**, daughter of **Catherine Puckett**, into membership. Keep your ears open and stay close to the grapevine, because we will be holding a **party** very soon. Cheryl has just accepted a position in Deland. We are happy for her and wish her well. **Jean Chalmers** has suffered a ruptured appendix. She is resting at home and expects a long recovery. **Andy Merritt**, husband of member, **Eleanor**, is at home now.

**Hold in the Light:** Jean Chalmers, Andy and Eleanor Merritt, Phil Klein, Phyllis Sherman, Morrie Trimmer, Tak Hayakawa and Bill Mitchell's father, Jack.

**Quakerism 101:** Everyone is invited to join our next discussion on Sunday, September 14 at 9:15 a.m. in the meetinghouse library. The topic is "Leadings." I have left what I could find on the topic on the top shelf of the bookcase in the foyer under the clock. If you take a pamphlet, please check it out in the library and remember to return it. The best source for this topic is Ruth Hyde-Payne's pamphlet, "How Do I Know It's a Leading?" If anyone has one, please share. Otherwise refer to George Fox's Journal to find examples of his leadings. Truth of the Heart pages 8 – 11 condenses George Fox's writings on the topic. I will try to have copies available and placed on the same shelf.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion: What has come to me in worship that I know to have been a leading from God, causing me to live out a testimony in the outer world? How am I held accountable for my witness? How do I know I have been faithful?

**Quaker Study Program:** **Nancy Atkinson** will lead us in exploring the concepts of mysticism and fundamentalism in the Abrahamic religions. Her text is The Battle for God by Karen Armstrong. We will meet in the meetinghouse on Friday, September 26 at 6 p.m. for a potluck supper and a presentation/discussion following.

**Forum:** **Brian Blackmore** has just returned from a 6 week course in Leadership for Young Adult Friends at Pendle Hill. He will present a forum on his experience on Sunday, September 21 at 1 p.m. Quaker Earthcare Witness Committee has graciously lent the meeting their time so that we can hear Brian at this early opportunity.

**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)

**Friends Committee for Consultation** passes on the information that the unprogrammed meeting in Louisville, Kentucky has received in attendance two extended refugee families from Burundi who have settled in the area. A third Burundian family is on its way. Evangelical Friends from Kansas began the first Friends Churches in Burundi more than 70 years ago. While worship in Louisville is much quieter than the Burundians are used to, the adults have taken to the unprogrammed worship. If you were to walk near the meetinghouse before or after worship, however, you might just hear the sounds of Kentucky Friends learning to sing in Kirundi and French.

## **Fun, Games, & Peace** ♦ September 14, 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!!

**First Day School** The elementary group, and any teens/pre-teens attending, will begin the Dr. Seuss curriculum on September 7th and 28th, with "To Think I Saw It on Mullberry Street." The activities promise to be interesting and fun.

**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:** On Friday, September 19, instead of our traditional film night, we will have a special evening in "China." We will have (1) a few scenes from the opening and closing ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics, (2) a power-point presentation by our own Robert Roberg, who is just back from spending several weeks in China, and (3) part of Bill Moyers's interview with Phillip Pan, author of *Out of Mao's Shadow*. There will be an opportunity to ask Robert questions about his trip and to have some discussion after the film. The evening at the Friends Meeting House will begin at 7 pm.

**Labor Day Forum:** On Sunday, August 31, following our social hour, we will have a special Labor Day Forum, featuring Bill Moyers's 8/15/08 interview with Andrew Bacevich, author of *The Limits of American Power: The End to American Exceptionalism*. The discussion is very broad-ranging and covers how we have become more materialistic, consumer-oriented, reckless in our spending, and more deeply in debt—and how this has led us to become increasingly dependent on imports of energy, manufactured goods (because we have exported our jobs), and credit. This, in turn has made us more reliant on the misguided ineffective use of military power to try, unsuccessfully, to maintain our control in the world. This threatens our very liberty, democracy, and financial security, destroying both our working class and our middle class—in the end, an unsustainable situation. Come join us for an enlightening discussion!

**Yoga** with Gary Monday evenings 6:30-8pm for a six-week course that starts September 8<sup>th</sup>.



## Around the Meetinghouse

By Jean Larson ◦ August 25, 2008

At the end of July, Karen Porter spotted a gopher tortoise on the property and showed it to Bill. It disappeared into the wax myrtles, which have come back nicely.

August started with a dry spell; I was out of town for a trip to Hawaii for a week and missed watering for two weeks. Some of the plants are still showing their distress and the Atlantic St. John's Worts (*Hypericum reductum*) that I planted near the coral beans have died. In Hawaii Bill and I saw lots of *Wedelia* (*Wedelia trilobata*) where it is a common exotic invasive. Since Bill and I had just found a patch on the meeting grounds, we were even more attuned to it. While there we visited one of the highest swamps in the world. It is a wonderful place.

After we returned, Fay came with lots of rain. Some of the shrubs have bent with the force of the rain. I walked out around the back retention pond during a lull in the rain and found an inch or two of standing water on sections of the grass. Being out during the gray light of the storm I saw a large frog by the outlet onto the drive of one of the gutters, his nose pointed toward the continuing flow of water coming out. Usually I am aware of all the frogs when I come out at night and can hear their choruses.

After talking with Andy Merritt, I started looking for any five-fingered footprints, probably of raccoons in the sandy areas near the creek. One afternoon Jeannie B and I were in the worship in nature area and saw a pair of downy woodpeckers investigating the trees there. I had never noticed this type of woodpecker before.

We have planted a variety of flowers with the idea of attracting butterflies and we have also been attracting a variety of bees. I saw a blue bee recently on the Ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*) that Karen A planted and I have seen many butterflies there, including a skipper with its characteristic long tail. I had spotted some small caterpillars on the yellow butterfly milkweed that Gary grew for the Master Gardener sale before Fay came by and checked today to find they were much larger and were eating themselves out of a home. They have yellow and black stripes and are probably monarch caterpillars, which can only eat milkweed. The bees and butterflies are such a blessing.

### NINTH MONTH 2008 GFM CALENDAR

8/31/08	Sun	1pm	Forum – Labor Day
9/2/08	Tues	11:45am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.
9/7/08	Sun	9:30am	Library Committee meeting
9/8/08	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga with Gary Arthur – also 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6 & 10/13
9/14/08	Sun	9:15am	Quakerism 101 - Leadings
		11:15am	Fun, Games & Peace – Teen games
		1pm	Meeting for Business
9/19/08	Fri	7pm	Film Night - China
9/21/08	Sun	12:30pm	Potluck
		1pm	Forum: Young Adult Leadership Program – Brian Blackmore
9/22/08	Mon		September newsletter deadline – <a href="mailto:anniemcp@bellsouth.net">anniemcp@bellsouth.net</a>
9/26/08	Fri	6pm	Quaker Study Program
9/28/08	Sun	9:30am	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
		1pm	Bible Study
10/4/08	Sat		SEYM – Interim Business Meeting – TBA
10/5/08	Sun	9:30am	Library Committee & Meetinghouse Committee meetings
		1pm	Forum: Creativity & Spirituality – John Westmark
10/7/08	Tues	11:45am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc

Unless noted, meetings are at the GF Meetinghouse.