

# QUAKER NEWSLETTER

## GAINESVILLE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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⇒ Newsletter submissions are due the Monday before the last Sunday of the month

NEWSLETTER, EIGHTH MONTH, 2009

KAREN PORTER, CLERK

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### QUERIES for The Eighth Month: PERSONAL INTEGRITY AND RIGHT ACTION

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Query: 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.

### Ministry & Nurture

**Hold in the Light:** Doughty Family, Connie & Tim Ray, Morrie Trimmer, Catherine Puckett, Eleanor and Andy Merritt, Gene & Dick Beardsley

**Quaker Study Program:** On Friday **July 31st** we will gather at the home of Karen and Jim Porter at 6 p.m. for a potluck supper and a discussion about the pamphlet, "The Testimony of Integrity in the Religious Society of Friends" by Wilmer Cooper. The pamphlet is available on the top shelf of the bookcase under the clock (behind the social room door) in the foyer. They are \$4 payable to Connie Ray.

On Friday **August 28<sup>th</sup>** potluck supper at 6 p.m. followed by a discussion on the pamphlet, "Quaker Witness as Sacrament" by Daniel O. Snyder."

*Connie Ray, Ministry & Nurture Clerk*

**Friendly Reading Group:** August & September no Reading Group - meet with Quaker Study Group

**Film Night:** Friday August 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the Meeting House. We will show

**Hospitality:** Jeannie Buskirk will be clerking the Hospitality Committee for the summer thru October. The committee would like to do what we did last summer for after Worship snacks. We'd like simple foods preferably finger foods, and would like no leftovers in the kitchen or refrigerator... "Pack it in, Pack it out".

**Peace & Social Concerns:** The Peace and Social Concerns Committee will meet at its usual time on Sunday, August 23, at 9:40am in the Meeting House Library. Summer reading (for anyone who wants to get started now) for an upcoming fall or winter book discussion: David Korten, *Agenda for a New Economy* (paperback).

**Film Night:** Friday August 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the Meeting House. We will show "Guarding Eddy" (2007), the story of the developing relationship between an autistic boy living in a homeless shelter in LA and his "big brother," doing court-ordered community service in the shelter. (Based on a true story)

**First Day School:** Many thanks to Dick B. and Sandy L. for the fascinating lesson on worm farming. We had a record number of children and the worms were well loved! Our studies, of all God's creatures, have included turtles, chickens and worms. If anyone has animals to share with us, please contact Jim Porter - Clerk of the First Day School Committee.

**SEYM Youth:** Here is the link to the first edition of the [SEYM Youth Trip Video](http://vimeo.com/5352031), which captures some of the activities of their two-week trek in Nicaragua. There will be another edition in about a month that will include more locations and sites. Click on link, or paste in browser: <http://vimeo.com/5352031>  
There will be a **Forum on August 16<sup>th</sup>** after potluck where Nicole and Cecilia will share photos and talk about their experiences going to Nicaragua on the ProNica trip.

**My Yearly Meeting Experience:** *Part 3-Friday peaked with evening dancing by Cheryl Demers-Holton*

On Friday I was late for morning worship by the lake. I was able to settle into the peaceful morning noise I have remembered from past Yearly Meetings. In SEYM/FUM worship sharing there was mostly silent worship. After the rise, Sylvia Graves shared that FUM has been suffering from division within. There are Friends in FUM that are not in agreement with more than just their personnel policy. She shares that the Kenyan Friends are not of the same mind as Friends here. She shared that FUM may need to "die" so that they might be resurrected into something better than they are now.

At the morning Plenary there were about 65 to 70 in attendance. Friends Journal, AFSC, Atlanta Meeting and Quaker Quest Representatives joined us. Tom Fennell, speaking for the Ministry and Nurture committee, announced that the scholarship to attend Pendle Hill for one week was still available due to no applicants. They have moved the deadline forward a few weeks to May 1<sup>st</sup>, but he reminded Friends that usually the applications are submitted three weeks before Yearly Meeting so that the scholarship can be announced at Yearly Meeting. After a small point of order, SEYM validated Miami Meeting's letter of support for a long-time Friend in Miami Meeting

who has gone to school to become a hospital chaplain. I mention this because it was at this moment I was reminded of the Quaker model. The person serves God, the Monthly Meeting serves the person and the Yearly Meeting serves the Monthly Meeting. Aren't we blessed that this defines right order in our midst? The executive committee reports that some out-of-print reports will be available on-line in the near future. The trustees reported that the economy has impacted Friends. We are reminded that now is a good time to buy.

Friday evening is a peak time for Friends and the intergenerational dance is a highlight of the weekend. Gary Arthur calls the dance and the Faith & No Practice Band adds to the high spirits. This year Gary was particularly shameless in his use of young Friend's sweet faces to coax the older friends onto the dance floor.

The weekend builds and wanes as Friends come and go on their own schedule. Each meal finds a few more tables filled - a few more faces that have been missed, a few more hugs. Betty Odum bought books for our Meeting and hosted a nature walk. Karen Arrington chatted with everyone she met, always interested in what makes others who they are. Brian Blackmore's sweet smile and warm hugs added to the comfort of being there. Sybil listened and gently added her measure of the Light, dividing her time between nominating committee and reporting on her visit to FWCC. Dick and Gene were seen cutting a rug on Friday night, not to be outdone by younger Friends. They added their peaceful presence to the weekend. Sheree Sims offered her loving service and support, taking notes at plenary sessions, clearing tables and selling books at the FGC Bookstore table. Gary Arthur spent the weekend supporting the Clerk, when he wasn't shaming Friends to get up and dance. Connie Ray added her measure of the Light at both Plenary and Worship Sharing and her sweet voice to after dinner singing.

### CAROL FRENCH DOUGHTY (1963-2009)

Carol Doughty, 45, died in Helsingborg Sweden, May 14th, when her struggle with cancer ceased. The daughter of Polly and Paul Doughty and sister of Tom, Carol was a member of our Meeting since childhood. She worked in the field of primary education, which she loved. She also was a mentor teacher in bi-lingual education specializing in teaching kindergarten and first grade pupils. She was a peer elected representative to the United Teachers of LA County union. She was married in Sweden to Bo Nilsson, where Carol worked in education and Bo in industrial chemistry. Her daughter Maya was born in 2002. All knew her as a caring, creative and enthusiastic person. Her friends and family love and miss her greatly.



The family started two Memorials to commemorate her dedication to education and to sustain her strong belief that teaching was an indispensable calling in support of society and nation: The *Carol French Doughty Memorial Scholarship* at the Alachua County Public Schools Foundation, Inc at 1725 S. E. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Gainesville 32641, to support needy students at GHS in pursuing careers in teaching and enrolling at Santa Fe College; The *Carol French Doughty Memorial Fund*

at the Center for Latin american Studies, 319 Grinter Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville 32611; to support graduate students working on Latin american and Latino issues pursuing careers in education.

**Her memorial service in Gainesville will be held at the Meetinghouse on Saturday August 1st from 3-4 p.m.** with a half hour musical prelude before and refreshments afterwards.

Due to expected large turnout, Meeting members are asked to park at Shir Shalom with vehicle access from NW 8th Avenue. One can walk from their property to ours with the passage not far from the SE corner of their property. On our side it will be marked with chalk on the ground where it crosses one of our parking bays.

### EIGHTH MONTH 2009 GFM CALENDAR

Worship 11am First Day (Sunday)

*Unless noted, meetings are at the Meetinghouse*

7/31/09	Fri	6 p.m.	Quaker Study Program at the Porters
8/1/09	Sat	3 p.m.	Memorial Meeting for Carol Doughty
8/2/09	Sun	11 a.m.	Worship
8/4/09	Tues	11:30 a.m.	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.
8/9/09	Sun	12:45 p.m.	Meeting for Business
8/16/09	Sun	9:30 a.m.	Singing
		After rise of Meeting	Potluck
		1 p.m.	Forum: Youth ProNica trip
8/21/09	Fri	7 p.m.	Film Night - Guarding Eddy

Since I recently returned from a trip to the Czech Republic and Poland, I am able to share my pleasure that learning Latin names for plants has side benefits. Bill and I visited a botanical garden in Prague where all the informational signs were in Czech but the tags associated with plants gave both the common and Latin names. We saw species familiar from Florida like the Soft rush or *Juncus effusus* which is no longer present in the back retention pond, and species related to ones on the property like a member of the hophornbeam family (*Ostrya*) in bloom in the botanical garden which was different from the *Ostrya virginiana* on our property but had similar blooms.

It was very reassuring to see that Marylynn's redbud (watered in my absence by Jim Morrison) was looking healthy and that the lawn had been cut by Doug Butler. Indeed, all the plants that had been added in recent months were looking very happy at the plentiful rainfall, even if I had to look between the leaves of some of the other plants that had sprouted so healthily in the meantime. The sandhill blackeyed susan (*Rudbeckia mollis*) is blooming if you look closely enough on the west side of the back retention basin and the loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*) nearby with its surround ferns is blooming very nicely.

John Burton was kind enough to show us mosquito larvae in different stages of development in the water atop a composting barrel left out near our new meeting for worship in nature area. While we were pleased to see the evidence of their growth in person, Bill tipped the barrel over to toss out the water and the habitat conducive to the growth of more mosquitoes. John also pointed out that our back retention pond appears to be retaining water, i.e. is also a habitat for mosquitoes, so Bill and I are monitoring the situation.



A walk around the property on Saturday showed bronze tree frogs in the hibiscus, whose flowers were such a show last month. Monarch butterfly caterpillars were munching on only a few remaining leaves among the butterfly milkweed that grew back from those planted the year before from plants Gary Arthur grew from seed. We were not successful hatching any monarchs last year, but the plants leafed out and had seeds after being stripped. We look to repeat this cycle this year, so I am thinking that a large plot of milkweed would be desirable for next year.

Near the back door to the meeting for worship room, there is a passion vine from the plants donated by Claudia Larsen two years ago. The gulf fritillary butterfly has laid eggs that hatched on this vine. The passion vine by the backdoor is in the shade, but seeing a call for more, we planted one along the split rail fence that is in a sunnier spot. This passion vine was eaten down without our spotting the caterpillars involved, but last year both Zebra longwing and Gulf fritillary caterpillars were spotted on the leaves. Bill not only photographed the caterpillars of the Gulf fritillary, but also the butterfly.



We were cited for not having a permit for our sign by the code enforcement division of the City of Gainesville. The timing of the notice was not optimal, coming in the summer when Bill and I and Jean and David Chalmers were traveling. David consulted with Bud Brennan and found that no cement had been poured, so he was confident it could be moved without great difficulty. On Friday, he called a number of people together to move the sign onto the meeting house property. Paul Doughty selected the new location by the south side of the driveway at the east end of our property. I was not there for the actual process, but David reported that Doug



Butler and a friend were the ones most responsible for installing the sign in its new location. Jean Chalmers finally made contact with someone in the City of Gainesville who was able to respond to our desire to have a permit that makes our sign legitimate, and now, after the payment of a suitable fee, we are legal. Everyone who helped, even if only by cheering, has my gratitude.