



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, FIRST MONTH, 2009

JEAN LARSON, CLERK

Queries 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.

MEETING NEWS

First Day School:

We would like to thank those adults who helped produce the children's play The Mitten: Odalis Manduley (and what a mitten you created!), Jim & Karen Porter, Tracy Jeshow & Skip Skidmore, Megan Barolet-Fogarty and Nicole Domingues (who stepped in at the last minute and played a great rabbit). With such an abundance of talent and love for the children in the meeting, everyone had a great time. Also, we would like to acknowledge the time the two young Friend producers spent on helping the younger Friends produce the play: our thanks to Eric Skidmore and Cecilia Haecker.

Our tentative schedule for January:

January 4 - the Dr. Seuss curriculum with the older children helping the younger ones.

January 11 - Jim Porter will continue with fun & games for peaceful communication with all the children.

January 18 - the Quaker Earthcare Witness committee will provide activities.

January 25 - more Dr. Seuss.

Laura Winefordner

News from Nina Kaharl.. I attended Meeting last weekend at Arch Street in Philly while visiting my father. He was, as he puts it, The Meeting Closer. He turned 84 on Monday! Thankfully, he is in good health, as he swims every day. The girls are both still in school, Johanna in her 3rd year at UF Pharmacy & Nina getting her AA at Santa Fe. She's been accepted into the Zoo Technology program, but not until Spring of 2010! She's also a manager at the Blockbuster on 13th Street. I'm still keeping my hands in musically with Musica Vera, which regularly plays around town. And still working on the house with Peter - it's just the two of us right now. I appreciate getting the newsletter by email!

Film Night: Friday Jan 16th 7pm - "A Home of our Own" is a film from 1993 tells the story of a single parent family in the early 1960's that leaves Los Angeles, finds and moves into any empty shack in a small town in Idaho, and their trials and tribulations in becoming a part of the local community. Kathy Bates stars as the widow and mother of six children. Edward Furlong narrates the film in his role as her oldest son.



The Book Nook *By Sandy Lyon*

Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order by Lloyd Lee Wilson caught my eye on our library shelf. At this point in my spiritual journey, I am eager to read a wide range of books about Quaker thought and practice, including both contemporary and historical thought. The essays have been approved by the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) in session, Seventh Month, 1992.

For a regular attendee of Quakerism 101, this book is a good summary and review of Quaker practice. The book is divided into three parts, The Quaker Message, Spiritual Gifts and the Faith Community, and Witness and Testimonies. The first part has a clear Christian base and may discourage more liberal Friends from reading the rest of the book. After the first few pages, the second two parts are much less traditionally Christian. Do not let the occasional paragraphs throughout the rest of the book deter you. What we share far surpasses our differences.

What sets this book apart from other descriptions of Quaker faith and practice is the first chapter in Part Two, The Meeting as Covenant Community. It addresses the increasing number of new, convinced Quakers who may be nursing wounds from other faith groups and share the social concerns of Quakers. They are attracted to the acceptance in Quaker meeting, but may not, understand, share, or even want to learn about Quaker faith underlying the practices. What should be taught and whom should teach Quaker thought? Does the meeting have seasoned Friends who are led, willing and able to teach? Dealing with these questions is at the heart of future of the Quaker meeting. You may not want to read the entire book, but the chapter on The Meeting as A Covenant Community is worth checking the book out.

Peace and Social Concerns: January 4th at 1pm. Forum on Roadmap for Peace by SEYM AFSC representatives Martha Morris and Susan Vaughn. Please check out the website www.roadmapforpeace.org

Yoga with Gary: Mon evenings at 6:30 - 8pm

Book Club: *The Friends Reading Group* is meeting on Sunday, Jan. 25th at 4pm, in the Meeting House for tea and a discussion focused on the book "A Long Way Gone, Memoirs of a Boy Soldier" by Ishmael Beah. Everyone is welcome! Sandy Lyon will facilitate our discussion and she has informed us that there are a number of new and used copies of this book available online at Amazon.com for under \$10.

In February: "Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way we Make Things" by William McDonough & Michael Braungart. Sybil Brennan will host a discussion of this book on Feb. 1st at 4pm. Contact Brian Blackmore, clerk of the Gainesville Friends Reading Group, with questions or concerns.

OUR ART SHOWCASE ☉ *Written By Lacy* Loga Springs Academy has presented an art show located at the Gainesville Friends Meetinghouse. We want to express our gratitude for hosting the show. The display's theme was Outward Appearances and Inner Life. This portrays that no matter how someone may seem physically, that the way their inner self may be expressed might be new to you. This emphasizes each student's love of their interests and captures their creativity in a decoratively made box that is placed in the center of the child's life size silhouette that will stand for display. Our art show was collaboration with other local artists that are also members or attenders of Gainesville Friends Meeting. Our life-sized armor had 204 words pinned onto it that represented ways we change our outward appearances, and we thank you for encouraging us to explore this so that we may more closely explore our inner life too. Thank you for visiting our showcase December 5 Through December 10. Below is a picture of Dick Beardsley showing us the fine art of jewelry-making. The other photo is of some of the students of Loga Springs working on a painting in John Westmark's Studio.

"The Stamp Box"

The Stamp Project has completed its twelfth year. All the sorting and selling is done from Mattapoisett, MA, part of the New England Yearly Meeting, while the collecting is done by many people across the U.S.A. and by you and by me! In this year twenty different individuals associated with the Gainesville Monthly Meeting, plus nine personal friends, have given stamps one or more times. These have been sent to the Quaker Missions group so they can, in turn, give money to our alphabet soup organizations such as AFSC, FWCC and FGC. Individual Meetings and special Quaker projects have also benefitted.



Please tear off the stamp corners of your Christmas cards and other holiday mail and place them in the square "stamp box" situated above the mail boxes in our social room. Please note that the stamps decorating that box were cut into, or torn or effaced in different ways rendering them unusable. Please be careful as you collect with enthusiasm!



Sybil Ann Brennan

Hold in the Light: The Howard family, Eleanor and Andy Merritt, Mary Dewey

Memorial Meeting for Worship for Marylynn Hall on Saturday, January 10, at 2 p.m.

We have agreed to host the **Southeastern Yearly Meeting's** Friends United Meeting discernment group on Saturday, February 28, 2009. We will provide lunch and hospitality as needed.

Quakerism 101: All are welcome to attend our next session on Sunday, January 11th at 9:15 a.m. in the library of the meetinghouse. We will look into the way Friends do business in Worship with a Concern for Business. Newcomers as well as seasoned Friends can participate in this discussion by asking questions and/or sharing experiences. This discussion will be followed by a little role playing by those who are game, about the "Wade House Takeover Controversy." This should lead to a lively discussion about how Friends solve problems that come up in a meeting and the ways in which Friends can search for the "sense of the meeting." Finally there will be a "lecture/ discussion" on the topic of "Broader Quaker Groups." You can get some good idea of that by observing the bulletin board in the library. Take a look and bring your questions and comments.

Quaker Study Program: Friday, January 30th "Tibet" led by Phil Buskirk. Potluck supper will be at 6 pm and the program starts at 7pm.

Connie Ray, Ministry & Nurture Clerk

Heather Passmore & Paul Gagnon would like to announce "two wonderful little presents we found under our Christmas tree". *Adelaide Calluna Gagnon* and *Malakai Linden Gagnon* were born December 18th around 6pm. The twin babies were born at 33 weeks and for now are in intensive care. "We're told they will probably both remain there for about four weeks after birth, with Adelaide probably coming home a bit sooner than that, and Malakai following by a few days."

Karen Porter

William Howard (1921-2008) ◇ Memorial Meeting Monday 12/29/08 at 11am

The first appearance of William Howard in the minutes is dated May 20, 1956 when he volunteered to take on the topic of the "Story of Quakerism" for several months with the older children. He showed a strong commitment to the education of the children, both Christian and Quaker.

William Howard was involved in the process of preparing the meeting for getting formal status as an organized monthly meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. For example, a four person visiting committee came on October 7, 1957, and he made arrangements for all to have dinner after meeting for worship in the cafeteria near the student union of the University of Florida (now Dauer Hall) where the meeting for worship was held.

William Howard was a professor of finance and insurance at the University of Florida, and he served the meeting as treasurer. He was elected to the Gainesville City Commission and served as mayor-commissioner in 1979-80.

His son, Michael Howard, is a non-resident member of Gainesville Monthly Meeting who attends meeting for worship when he is in town. William Howard is survived by his wife of 61 years, Helen Howard, by three daughters in addition to his son, and by nine grandchildren.

From our Treasurer...

I would like to remind Friends that the meeting depends on donations to cover regular expenses, as well as to pay off the mortgage. Currently the General Fund has a deficit for the year of almost six thousand dollars.

Checks may be mailed to the meetinghouse or put into the safe by the main entrance. If you want the check, or part of it, to go to the mortgage, then please indicate this on the check...

Bill Mitchell



Around the Meetinghouse

By Jean Larson ♦ December 21, 2008



Today at breakfast in the meetinghouse before meeting for business, talk turned to gardening. The context was living simply on the earth. Sandy Lyon reported on recent successes including a good crop of chard and pretty pea-flowers if no pods. Bart Hulett said that today, the winter solstice and shortest day of the year, was the best day to plant garlic; the summer solstice in six months would be the best time to harvest it. He recommended early January for planting herbs like chives, which I will keep in mind for our herb garden in the front of the meetinghouse, whose basil has died back.

I have noticed some native cool weather plants are beginning to appear or put out new growth. Bud Brennan trimmed the tall grass in the bays near the parking lot (we asked for Muhly grass, and this appears to be a large form of it, but has never flowered, so I cannot confirm it). Now the fresh growth of this cool weather grass is spiking above the cut stems. I spotted some tiny vines just beginning to grow in the children's yard that I think may be vetches (pea vine, *Vicia* species) like ones that grew last year. Sticky Willy (*Galium aparine*), also known as goose grass and spring cleavers, is sprouting energetically. I have included a photograph taken by Bill of this native plant in the Bedstraw genus which shows its early upright shape with whorls of leaves around the stem. Later in the year it will be sprawling over the ground and any nearby low growing dormant plants.

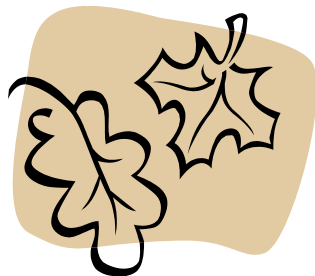


Cassia

The flowers behind the meetinghouse are doing well. The cassia on which I saw a first bloom last month now has bright yellow clusters of them.

The yellow butterfly milkweed started from seed by Gary Arthur as part of his master gardener class is now putting out its own seeds with their own fluff as you can see in the photograph taken by Bill. This milkweed (I think it is an all yellow variant of the tropical *Asclepias curassavica*), while not a Florida native, is a good nectar source and larval food source for the Monarch butterfly. I read that the native butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) we have planted does not have the enough of the qualities which Monarch butterflies seek in a host plant to make their offspring toxic rather than tasty. Last week the rose bush we can see out the kitchen window put out a spectacular display with several flowers in full bloom.

Walking in the woods on a winter morning is a light filled experience with so many of the leaves on the ground. Think about taking a walk one of these mornings and enjoying the fresh air and signs of life that abound.



FIRST MONTH 2009 GFM CALENDAR

12/29/08	Mon	11am	Memorial Meeting for William Howard
1/4/09	Sun	9:30am	Library, Hospitality & Meetinghouse Committee meetings
		1pm	Forum – Roadmap for Peace with Martha Morris & Susan Vaughen
1/6/09	Tues	11:45am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc
1/10/09	Sat	2pm	Marylynn Hall Memorial Meeting
1/11/09	Sun	9:15am	Quakerism 101
		1pm	Meeting for Business
1/12/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga with Gary
1/13/09	Tues		GI Rights Hotline meeting
1/16/09	Fri	7pm	Film Night – A Home of Our Own
1/17/09	Sat		SEYM Winter Interim Meeting at Orlando Meeting
1/18/09	Sun	9:30am	Singing
			Potluck
			Quaker Earthcare Witness
			Michener Lecture – SEYM Interim Meeting at Orlando Meeting
1/19/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga with Gary
1/24/09	Sat		Chinese Dinner & Auction for ProNica & Guatemala Scholarship Fund
1/25/09	Sun	9:30am	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
		1pm	Bible Study
		4pm	Book Club
1/26/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga with Gary
1/27/09	Tues	7pm	GI Rights Hotline meeting
1/30/09	Fri	6pm	Quaker Study Group
1/31/09	Sat		Great Air Potato Round Up
2/1/09	Sun	9:30am	Library, Hospitality & Meetinghouse Committee meetings
2/3/09	Tues	11:30am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc

Unless noted, meetings are at the Meetinghouse.

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



