

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, SEVENTH MONTH, 2009

KAREN PORTER, 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.

Ministry & Nurture

Hold in the Light: Gene Beardsley, Catherine Puckett, Eleanor and Andy Merritt, Morrie Trimmer

“Spiritual Afterthoughts”: We have a new tri-fold on the Spiritual Afterthoughts part of worship. It will be on the wheeled table near the door, so that newcomers or others who are curious can pick one up on the way in to worship.

Quaker Study Program: Everyone who went to Jeannie and Phil Buskirk’s house in St. Augustine had a good time in spite of not being able to go to the beach. A thunderstorm prevented us. But, as Betty Odum said, “We had an adventure.” Jeannie and some others had birthday cake prepared to celebrate Tim Ray’s 70th birthday. Following a very good potluck supper, we settled in to discuss our reactions to some of the essays by London Friends on the topic of “Twelve Quakers and God.”

On July 31st we will gather at the home of Karen and Jim Porter 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.

“The call for integrity in daily life lies at the heart of Quakerism. It reflects Friends’ devotion to truth, honesty, authenticity and wholeness. This pamphlet claims that the Testimony of Integrity should undergird all the Quaker testimonies and should become the guiding principle for daily living.” - *Pendle Hill bookstore*

“What canst thou say?”

From Ireland Yearly Meeting: “. . . in the comfort of our own Yearly Meeting, we are all too aware of the challenges that confront our world. For too long we have been part of a culture based on achievement and performance rather than on personal worth. But somehow through it all, we can identify an answer in the message of Jesus which offers simply unconditional love and the security to accept forgiveness. We still realize that, like the woman of Samaria, we can go again to the well and receive the water of eternal life.

‘But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength: they shall mount up with wings as eagles: they shall run and not be weary: and they shall walk and not faint’ Isaiah 40 v. 31”

Connie Ray, Ministry &

Nurture Clerk

Friendly Reading Group July, August, September no Reading Group - meet with Quaker Study Group

Film Night: Friday July 17th at 7:00 pm 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)



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".

Pronica: The Blog for teens in Nicaragua is <http://pronocablog.blogspot.com/>

Peace & Social Concerns will sponsor a Forum on July 5th at 1pm . The topic is "the latest on the health care struggle". Our discussion will begin with a showing of the *Bill Moyers Journal* health care special.

First Day School: Gary Arthur led a music session on 6/14; Sandy Lyon with Morgan and Morgan's week old baby chicks and April led the 6/21 session. *THANKS* to Gary, Sandy, Morgan, April, and to the children and parents who helped make such successful events. *Step-by-step* toward a new floor for the First Day school room: Please add footprints to the line when you make a contribution.



The Birth of a New Day

Sitting on a weathered bench looking out on the mist-shrouded lake, I wait expectantly
in the first gray light to witness the birth of a new day.

Appropriately for such an occasion,
a number of midwives are present
to assist the delivery,
in the form of;

-a soft, April breeze that begins to disperse
the mist, ripples the calm water and strums long strands
of Spanish moss;

-black silhouettes of an anhinga spreading its' wings out to dry,
accompanied by four small ducks aligned side
by side on the dock railing;

-the majestic flight of a large blue heron, as it skims
the rippled surface, scanning the shallows
for breakfast;

-a talkative fish crow as it lights into the tree top
above me, breaking the silence with its' raucous
wake-up call;

-the mother of all midwives, the sun,
which breaks through the last remnants of night,
bringing with it a full color spectrum to illuminate the newborn.

And as the new day is being born without,
another is being born within.

By Dick Beardsley

Inspired by witnessing the arrival of a new day
on Lake Griffin at the SEYM Gathering.
April, 2009

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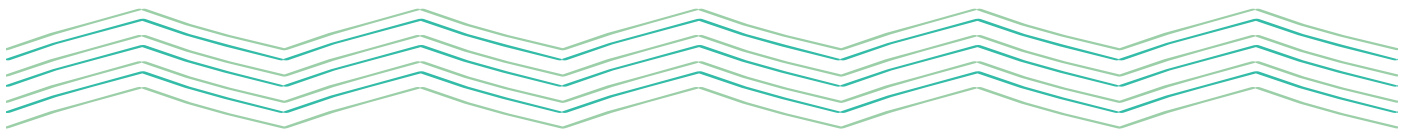
My Yearly Meeting Experience: Part 2 ○ Thursday started early... by Cheryl Demers-Holton

Thursday morning began at 4 am; I was so happily anticipating worshipping with Friends at the lake, in the earliest part of the day, that I was not able to stay in bed a minute more. I arrived early to the lake. Second only to the squirrels I sat on a bench swing. The air was full of noise. Sirens echoed off the water endlessly. The air was chilled and I felt it in my cheeks. My ears and fingers complained of the cold and I just couldn't settle, I found myself swinging faster and faster, the birds and tree frogs started to compete with the sirens and I just couldn't settle. It came to me that my work this year has been much like that, trying to block out the noise around me to focus on the work. Then it seemed quite suddenly that the birds had won, the sirens were gone and I was still.

After breakfast I met with other friends who chose to hold SEYM in the Light with a concern for our relationship with FUM, during traditional worship Sharing. Mary Ellen McNish shared again about the work of AFSC by sharing a film made in honor of its 90th anniversary. The film showed examples of Friends work toward integration, Friends fitting Vietnamese children with prosthetic arms and legs, helping undocumented Mexican immigrants and building community gardens in Bosnia. AFSC used to do a great many things for others, now it works to empower others to do for themselves. They are sitting with people to get to the cause of the problem.

After lunch there were committee meetings and finally at 4pm the first plenary session. It was mentioned after the session that those of us present have become dependent on Connie's great memory for all things new in Gainesville Friends. We did little to report the news; we will strive to do better next year. There were six young friends counted among the group of about sixty to seventy that met. The lack of young friends continues to be a concern to all. There were visitors from other areas. Michael Wajda came, although he is there with such regularity I forget he is not from the south east. Sylvia Graves came to represent FUM and Maria Bradley, another frequent visitor to SEYM, was there representing FGC and Baltimore yearly meeting. Rod Zoomer from the Manadnock Meeting representing Earth Care Witness, Darlene Walker from Pendle Hill, Nyonu Spam from the committee on Racism and Newton Garber, President of Bolivia Education.

Throughout the weekend the teens reminded us of their trip to Nicaragua. They raised over eight thousand dollars before yearly meeting and were trying to raise all the money without asking for one third from Yearly meeting. On the table were "Mug 'o cake" mix, strawberry jam and a Savannah Friend even donated some of her water colors for sale to help the cause.



From Karen Porter.....

Dear Friends,

As some of you know I have been building a school (Loga Springs Acedemy) in my home for six years now. I am ready now to get a building to expand. I am beginning to realize that a school is a community and have begun to invite more and more people to participate in the process of building it. I continually feel led towards the idea of it becoming a Friends School and am exploring clearness on this leading. Nevertheless, I found a building that I just couldn't pass up, so I am in the process of getting a building for Loga Springs Academy that meets code standards. It may take a lot of time and may not be approved.

But, I invite anyone interested to a neighborhood workshop to discuss modifying the existing special use permit for the property located on the 900 block of NE 16th Avenue. This is not a public hearing. The purpose of the meeting is to inform neighboring property owners of the nature of the proposal and to seek their comments. The

meeting will be held Wednesday July 1 at 7 pm at Highland Presbyterian Church, 1001 NE 16th Avenue, Gainesville, FL. The mission of Loga Springs Academy is to create a culture of academic excellence, peace and service through simplicity, integrity, equality, and excellence. This is to be achieved by: Maintaining high standards of educational achievement through inquiry based instruction; Teaching strategies for creating community, including peaceful conflict resolution and providing opportunities for service learning. Please contact me if you have questions 352-337-0686.

Around the Meetinghouse ♦ Jean Larson ♦ June 22, 2009

After a delightful period of rain sufficient to encourage luxuriant growth of our lawns and obviate the need to water all but the plants most recently added to the landscape, we have a succession of very hot days, and the result can be seen in a drooping young elderberry.

The purple coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*) planted last year in the children's yard have grown twice as tall this year, nearly to the top of the fence there, and are blooming attractions for pollinators, as are the salt and pepper bushes (*Melanthera nivea*) near the back door to the meeting for worship room. These shrubs are attracting bees with a white strip across their black abdomens. The swath of blanket flowers in the children's yard attracted a small butterfly I tentatively identified as a Cassius Blue.



Some flowers have blooms that last only a day. An example is the Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohimensis*) which belongs to the family Commelinaceae family. Also in this family is the genus *Commelina* whose members are called dayflowers. Another such short bloomer is the Scarlet Swamp Hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccinea*). I planted three more than a year ago, and put up some low wire fencing after the armadillos kept uprooting them in their search for worms.

One of them didn't survive the armadillos, one held on, and the third grew sturdy, before going dormant in the winter. On Saturday, it bloomed most spectacularly. The bright red blossom is about six inches across with five petals and a long pistil. The plant is a host for the Gray Hairstreak butterfly and is also used as a nectar plant.



Swamp Hibiscus – notice tree frog on leaf



SEVENTH MONTH 2009 GFM CALENDAR

Worship 11am First Day (Sunday)

6/28/09	Sun	9:30am	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
		1pm	Bible Study
7/5/09	Sun	1pm	Forum: Healthcare
7/7/09	Tues	11:30am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.
7/12/09	Sun	9:30am	Hospitality Committee
7/17/09	Fri	7pm	Film Night – Guarding Eddy
7/19/09	Sun	9:30am	Singing
		12:30pm	Potluck & Earthcare Witness Committee meeting
7/26/09	Sun	9:40am	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
		1pm	Bible Study
7/31/09	Fri	6pm	Quaker Study Program at the Porters
8/9/09	Sun	12:45pm	Meeting for Business

Unless noted, meetings are at the Meetinghouse