

QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter Editor:

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

NEWSLETTER, TENTH MONTH, 2009

KAREN PORTER, CLERK

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.

Ministry & Nurture

Please Hold in the Light: Eleanor and Andy Merrittt; Annie McPherson; Sandy Lyon; and Bonner, Mary, and Susan Allee for patience, strength, healing and perseverance.

Quaker Study Program: on Friday, October 23 (This is not the last Friday of the month. So, mark your calendars.) **Davida Johns** will give a presentation about ProNica. We will have a potluck dinner at 6:00pm, and the presentation will start as soon as we can get cleaned up. Bring money. She will have indigenous crafts for sale.

Friday, December 4th we will have our annual brainstorming session for topics/pamphlets to discuss in the coming year. Again potluck dinner at 6:00pm and brainstorming after. As usual we will have a pile of catalogs to look through to get ideas. Last year only three people showed up. I hope we can do better this year. We pick the first Friday in December to avoid the holidays.

Words to Contemplate: “True Godliness don’t turn Men out of the World, but enables them to live better in it, and excites their Endeavours to mend it.” William Penn, No Cross, No Crown.

From Connie: Visiting Quaker needs a place to stay

I am coming to visit my father who lives in Oak Hammock from Dec 25-28. I know this is a holiday time but I was hoping that there might be someone in the Gainesville area who would allow me to stay with them. I will be gone most of the day while I am in town. I have a brother in the area but his house is going to be full of children home from college and friends who are coming in from out of town. Thank you for asking about this during announcements and letting me know if there are any possibilities. I can also have the clerk of my Dallas Meeting provide a letter of introduction.

From Barbara Luetke - bluetke@ymail.com

Connie Ray, Ministry & Nurture Clerk

Friendly Reading Group: *Sandy Lyon, Clerk*

The Friendly Reading Group meets the First Day of each month at 2:30pm at the meeting house for tea, goodies and a lively and informal discussion led by the friend who selected that month’s book. You are welcome to join us even if you don’t attend regularly or have not read the selection for the month.

On October 4th Dick Beardsley will be sharing some of his poetry. He invites you to bring your favorite poems to share too!!

November 1st	The Giver	Lois Lowry	Sandy Lyon
December 6th	Three Cups of Tea	Mortenson and Relin	Mona Morris
January 3rd	Quaking	Kathryn Erskine.	Jean Larson

Contact Sandy Lyon or Betty Odum, to recommend books or if you would like to lead a discussion.

Holiday Bazaar - November 14th, 9AM- 3PM at and around the meeting house. We will sell crafts, needlework, University of Florida Stadium Quilt, gifts in a jar, and your best white elephants. We'll also have a bake sale, including sandwiches, and coffee available. Members are asked to make donations for the crafts, white elephants, bake sale items and time to organize and serve. *Contact Mona Morris* to help.

Meeting Workday Sat. October 24th - Let's gather around 9 am at the meetinghouse and put in some time putting the sparkle back in the meetinghouse. It is a time for fellowship and window washing, cleaning the refrigerator, walking through the woods to pick up trash, and a time for sprucing up our gardens prior to the Crafts Fair in November. Let's have a potluck lunch as well!! *Jean Larson*

Hospitality Committee: next meeting Oct. 11th, 9:30 a.m. The hospitality committee thanks everyone who has kept the kitchen running with contributions of goodies, preparation, and clean-up. Bringing finger food and taking home your own leftovers makes the clean-up much easier and quicker. After finding ants one Sunday, we would also like to ask that you leave only canned food items in the cabinets. Even unopened crackers and grain foods can become infested with critters.

A note from Eleanor Merritt

I don't get to Meeting because weekend time with Andy is our time - no out-patient therapy, no private therapy, no doctor appointments, no trips to Publix, no car repairs, no organization of what has to be done that day.....it's not a day to leave Andy for three or more hours.

I always read the Meeting newsletter from cover to cover....and I read it again from cover to cover. I feel a part of the Meeting and I am thankful that I am included in being told what is happening. So I just want to say *thank you* for the newsletter.

The **Peace & Social Concerns Committee** will meet on Sunday, October 25 at 9:40am.

We will have a **Forum** on Sunday, October 4, at 12:45 on the painful and disturbing question of the use of torture as a part of our so-called war on terrorism. We will show excerpts from the recent documentary, "Torturing Democracy." Although it does not show all the graphic details of torture, this is a deeply shocking and disturbing film. We hope that seeing it will keep our awareness alive of what goes on out of our sight, unseen and unwitnessed, and encourage all of us to think about what we need to do to re-build a society that does not want or accept torture. There are some parts of reality that most of us would prefer not to see and to ignore entirely, but torture is too violent and evil to pretend that it has not been an important part of our public policy—or that it has not affected our lives. For those with children we will arrange childcare during the film. Volunteers who may not wish to see the film are welcome to help with the children.

American policy on torture has been one of the major concerns of the FCNL. Here is a brief section from their recent bulletin of April 12, 2009: "In response to the release of the torture memos, FCNL calls for a "Commission of Inquiry". We believe it is the United States' moral obligation to investigate the authorization and use of torture by U.S. government agents in our name. Find out more about a commission of inquiry. <http://www.fcnl.org/torture>

Note: The Hippodrome will be showing FOOD.INC from September 21-October 1. This is an important and revealing documentary about our increasingly industrialized food industry and its consequences for our personal health and for the health of farm workers, the economy and society. We will plan a Forum in the near future about the grass roots slow food movement and other related efforts. *Jim Morrison*

Film Night: This month our Film night will be on Friday, October 16th, at 7pm in the Meeting House. We will show Frozen River (2008), a moving film about two desperately poor single mothers who, as a last resort to survive, embark on an illegal venture transporting immigrants into the US across Mohawk territory. ...A gripping and moving film. Winner Grand Jury Prize, Sundance Film Festival.

Around the Meetinghouse ♦ Jean Larson ♦ September 21, 2009

The goldenrod in the children's yard is blooming, and it reminds me that I should be out pulling up more ragweed, since it blooms around the same time. On my walk through the woods yesterday with Bill and Brad, I noticed some healthy specimens in the area just south of the split rail fence, but there is much less than last year at this time. Especially pleasing is to look at the slope west of the front retention pond which was heavily infested last year and where Bill has been scything it away. Now there are lots of *Bidens alba*, variously known as common beggarticks, shepherd's needles, Spanish needles, the butterfly needles. In their butterfly book, Marc and Maria Minno note that butterflies are attracted to the flowers of this plant which reliably blooms over a long period. It is the bane of those wearing nice silk shirts in which the barbed seeds lodge so readily.

Speaking of butterflies, I visited the area behind the meetinghouse prior to meeting and was rewarded with the sight of two Monarch butterflies visiting the yellow tropical butterfly milkweed that was started from seed by Gary Arthur. It is a real pleasure to see the butterflies around the meeting lot, flying down the driveway, visiting flowers we have planted and that have arrived on their own.

While behind the meetinghouse, after deadheading Bud's rosebush, I also spotted a lovely yellow flower on a plant with which I was not familiar. Later I showed it to Brad, who listed the core data for the plant: 4 yellow petals, 4 sepals, 8 stamens, 1 pistil, alternate leaves, hairy stem, hairy slender leaves, pointed at each end with smooth edges, and a thick area below the plane of the petals where the seeds would develop. At home I flipped through Walter Kingsley Taylor's *Guide to Florida Wildflowers*, and picked out what he calls Primrose Willow (*Ludwigia peruviana*) and noted the resemblance to *Ludwigia octovalvis*. I knew there are Florida native *Ludwigias*, because we have one growing in the back retention pond. Then I looked up *Ludwigia* in the Florida Atlas of Vascular Plants online. There are lots of different kinds of *Ludwigia* in Florida, and I was having trouble telling them apart from the photographs, so I checked out Richard Wunderlin's *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida*, which is basically a gigantic key with no pictures or drawings, and only brief indications of location, and whether or not the plant is common. The specimen clearly keyed out to *Ludwigia peruviana*, which I was dismayed to see is listed among the category 1 invasive species with air potatoes, Japanese climbing fern, and coral ardisia, all of which we are trying to eradicate from our natural area.



Also blooming at this time is the firebush planted by Tracy Jeshow near the tall stump now covered with vines by the front parking lot. There are lovely purple heads of Mistflower, also known as *Ageratum* (*Conoclinium coelestinum*) blooming on the west side of the front retention basin, and across the basin, one sees the bright red berries of the hearts a'busting with love.



Beautyberries have their bright purple berries out at this time. Out by the back retention basin, the yellow tops (*Flaveria linearis*) are nearly spent, and the *Chamaecrista fasciculata* is putting out beans. It is a pleasure to walk through the woods, looking at the record of the recent rains carved in ripples in the sand where the water floods through, and enjoying the flit of the birds and the butterflies though the woods.

Friendly Singing: Please join me on third Sundays at 9:30 am near the piano for singing from our hymnal. There are lots of great songs to sing, and I would like us to learn a Christmas Carol from the hymnal that I first heard last year before meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

Jean Larson

TENTH MONTH 2009 GFM CALENDAR

Worship 11am First Day (Sunday)

Unless noted, meetings are at the Meetinghouse

10/4/09	Sun	9:30am	Library Committee
		12:45pm	Forum – Torturing Democracy
		2:30pm	Friendly Reading Group – Dick’s poetry
10/6/09	Tues	11:30am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.
10/11/09	Sun	9:30am	Hospitality Committee
		12:45pm	Meeting for Business
10/16/09	Fri	7pm	Film – Frozen River
10/18/09	Sun	9:30am	Singing
	After rise of Meeting		Potluck
10/23/09	Fri	6pm	Quaker Study Program - ProNica
10/24/09	Sat	9am	Workday at the Meetinghouse
10/25/09	Sun	9:40am	Peace & Social Concerns Committee
		12:45pm	Bible Study