

# QUAKER NEWSLETTER

## GAINESVILLE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

**Newsletter Editor:**

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**Photographs: Bill Mitchell**

**Meeting Place:** 702 NW 38<sup>th</sup> St., Gainesville, Fla. 32605

**Phone:** 352-372-1070

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

**Clerk: Mona Morris**

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

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### NEWSLETTER, FOURTH MONTH, 2011

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#### MUTUAL CARE

Query: How do we foster a spirit of community among the Meeting's members and attenders? How does the Meeting keep in contact with all of the Meeting's members and attenders? How does the Meeting assist couples and families to communicate, grow together, and rear children in a loving environment? Does the Meeting Community nurture the Meeting's children? How does the Meeting care for those who live alone, the sick, the aging, the widowed, the separated or divorced, and others with families affected by disruption? Do we assist Friends in need as their circumstances require? How do we labor with and care for those whose conduct or manner of living give grounds for concern? How are visitors to our Meeting made to feel welcome?

Advice: Be truthful and sincere and thus encourage these qualities in others. Through example and education, help each other to recognize and follow the voice of God both in our spiritual lives and in joyful and willing service. Watch with tenderness over the opening minds of children. Seek to awaken in them the love and understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus, and a sense of security in the love of God. Remember that there is a unique potential in each human being as a beloved child of God, and the Holy Spirit may lead children to give wise counsel to listening adults. Young people, too, have responsibility to care for the Meeting and to participate in Meetings both for Worship and for Business. Faith is needed as a vital part of our living.

#### Ministry & Nurture

**Please Hold in the Light:** Tom Clark, Cheryl Demers-Holton, Marie and Dave Parsons, Eleanor and Andy Merritt, and Dick Beardsley as he recovers from surgery.

Ministry and Nurture would like to know if there are those who are homebound and would like to have some people come to worship with you. It does not need to be in your home, but could be in your yard, for example.

If anyone would like to attend the **Southeastern Yearly Meeting Annual Gathering** and needs financial assistance, please speak to the clerk of the meeting, Mona Morris.

**On Saturday, May 7** starting at 9 a.m. the meeting will have an all day retreat on the topic, "The Nuts and Bolts of Quakerism." This is a workshop facilitated by Phoebe Andersen of the Tallahassee Monthly Meeting. She has led this workshop with other meetings and has received positive comments about the experience. The committee chose this topic based on the comments and questions raised in the forum held to help our clerk write "The Spiritual State on the Meeting" on Sunday, January 2.

**On Sunday, November 6** the committee will present a forum discussion on "Quaker Quest." We will explain what it is, and what the meeting would need to do to implement it. Quaker Quest is both a process and an experience. At the forum we will discuss whether the meeting would like a workshop to help us discern what changes we might want to make to help newcomers integrate into the life of the meeting, and if we feel led to undertake public sessions about Quakerism.

**Reminder:** In worship please remember to allow time between messages for people to contemplate each one.

**Words to Contemplate:** "There is a principle which is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages hath had different names. It is, however, pure and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of religion nor excluded from any where the heart stands in perfect sincerity. In whomsoever this takes root and grows, of what nation soever, they become brethren in the best sense of the expression." - John Woolman, 1774



**Friendly Reading Group:** *Sandy Lyon, Clerk*

The Friendly Reading Group meets on the third Sunday after fellowship from 1-2 PM. On April 17 we will discuss *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: The Myth of Racial Justice*. The authors, Vanessa Julye and Donna McDaniel, will be the featured speakers at the SEYM Gathering the following week. There is a copy of the book in the meetinghouse library. It is also available for purchase through Friends General Conference as well as several other book vendors. We are still looking for someone to lead the discussion. On May 15 we will be discussing *Blade Runner (Do Droids Dream of Electric Sheep)* by Philip K. Dick. The movie *Blade Runner* was based on this classic work of science fiction, which explores what it means to be human. This book was required reading for all students entering Cornell University in the fall of 2010. If you are willing to lead the discussion, please see Sandy Lyon.

**Film Night:** Friday, April 15th at 7 pm we will show "*I Am Sam*," a touching film about a mentally challenged man who, after having raised his daughter by himself since the day of her birth, has to fight to regain custody after child welfare takes her away and puts her in a foster home.

**Peace & Social Concerns Committee** will meet on April 24th at 9:40 am in the Meetinghouse Library.



**PARTY, PARTY, PARTY!** There will be a welcoming party for Shawna Doran, who is joining our Meeting with a transfer from St. Petersburg Meeting. It will be a potluck dinner on Friday April 29th at 6 pm at the home of Gary Arthur. Everyone come with celebration in mind! Please notify Gary that you plan to come at 224-5143 or [garya365@gmail.com](mailto:garya365@gmail.com)

**From Laura.....** Thanks to all for the continued contributions of non-perishable food to Community Ministries. Keep those cans and boxes coming!

For the *wedding of Elliott Campbell and Smiti Nepal* on May 29<sup>th</sup>, under the care of Westerly Monthly Meeting (Rhode Island) to be held here with our assistance, we need some large attractive bowls for serving the food at the reception. Please contact Laura or Dick Beardsley if you can help with this.

SEYM has begun to use a program called "Shepherd's Watch" to make sure those who work with children have appropriate backgrounds. It's easy to use and SEYM pays the cost. No fingerprinting is necessary (a good thing, because mine were rejected twice for being wrinkled. Well what do they expect? I have wrinkles!). Applications forms and instructions are available in the library at the meetinghouse and from the SEYM website. For further information contact Laura 372-3972 or [laurawine34@gmail.com](mailto:laurawine34@gmail.com)

**Yoga:** Mondays at 6pm in the meetinghouse.

**Forum** Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1 pm in the Meetinghouse Social Room with Shawna Doran & Michael Canney will report on their recent trip to Haiti. The program will include short video clips, slides and plans to work with Haitians on several projects, including a rural school, a health clinic in Papaye, and a school for earthquake refugees. There will be a discussion about the possibility of organizing a more permanent Quaker people-to-people program in Haiti (ProHaiti?) modeled after ProNica. (originally scheduled for March 6)

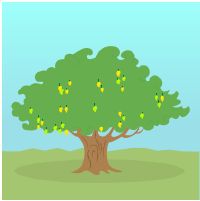
**Forum** Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1 pm in the Meetinghouse Social Room “The Challenge to Democracy” a viewing of a short TV clip, followed by discussion of our role in the democratic process and a reminder of the Quaker tradition of letter-writing and involvement in social/political movements supporting freedom/justice for all.

### Fourth Month 2011 GFM CALENDAR

Worship 11am First Day (Sunday)

*Unless noted, meetings are at the Meetinghouse*

3/27/11	Sun	9:40am	Peace & Social Concerns Committee
		12:45pm	Bible Study
3/28/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
4/3/11	Sun	9:30am	Library & Hospitality & Building/Grounds/Landscaping Committees
		1pm	Forum: Haiti Hurricane Relief w/ Shawna & Michael
4/4/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
4/5/11	Tues	11:30am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.
4/9/11	Sat	9am-4pm	Craft Show at Gainesville Women's Club – Quaker table
4/9/11	Sat	11am	Picnic at Duirwood – A day in nature with Annie & David
4/10/11	Sun	1pm	Meeting for Business
4/11/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
4/15/11	Fri	7pm	Film Night:
4/17/11	Sun	9:30am	Singing
		12:30pm	Potluck
		1pm	Friendly Reading Group: Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship
4/18/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
4/20-24			SEYM Yearly Meeting Gathering – Fruitland Park, FL
4/24/11	Sun	9:40am	Peace & Social Concerns Committee
		12:30pm	Bible Study
4/29/11	Fri	6pm	Welcoming Party for Shawna
4/30/11	Sat	9am	Meeting Workday
5/1/11	Sun	9:30am	Library & Hospitality & Building/Grounds/Landscaping Committees
		1pm	Forum
5/2/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
5/7/11	Sat	9am-4pm	All Day Meeting Retreat w/ Phoebe Andersen



**Picnic at Duirwood**.... Annie & David invite Friends to their property in Columbia County on Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> starting around 11am ♥ walking some of the trails (both easy walking & rougher hike into the cypress swamp) in the morning and picnic **potluck lunch** at around noon. There are no facilities, no water and no electricity. Composting toilet is available. We will have plenty of drinking/washing up water. Rain or shine! **Directions:** 441 N (On I75 get off at exit 414 & go right/north on 441) to Hwy 240 (about 4.5 miles from exit 414 “Watermelon Park” gas station on left) take left on 240 – follow 240 past 47. Go about 12.2 miles to Hwy 247 and take a right (gas station) go 1.5 miles to Siloam Rd & take a left. Go about .6 miles to Wilder Ct. (2<sup>nd</sup> rd) take right, it is an unpaved rd. Dead ends into our easement – curve left then right by “No Trespassing” - keep going straight onto grass driveway, do not go to trailers on left. See reflectors. It is about an hour from Gainesville. Annie’s cell is 352-514-7316, but it does not work at the property. Questions? Contact

[anniemcp@bellsouth.net](mailto:anniemcp@bellsouth.net)

**Hospitality Committee** Work Days for the year are proposed as April 30<sup>th</sup>, October 15<sup>th</sup>, December 10<sup>th</sup>

**Local Foods Dinner** is scheduled for Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. When the time comes we will put out a sign-up sheet. Remember there only has to be one locally grown item in your recipe. There will be cards at the dinner on which you can write where your locally grown items were found. Board games are a possibility for our entertainment. We also will be having native plants for sale at the dinner. If anyone wants to donate some plants for the sale please call Arlene at 386-462-5615.

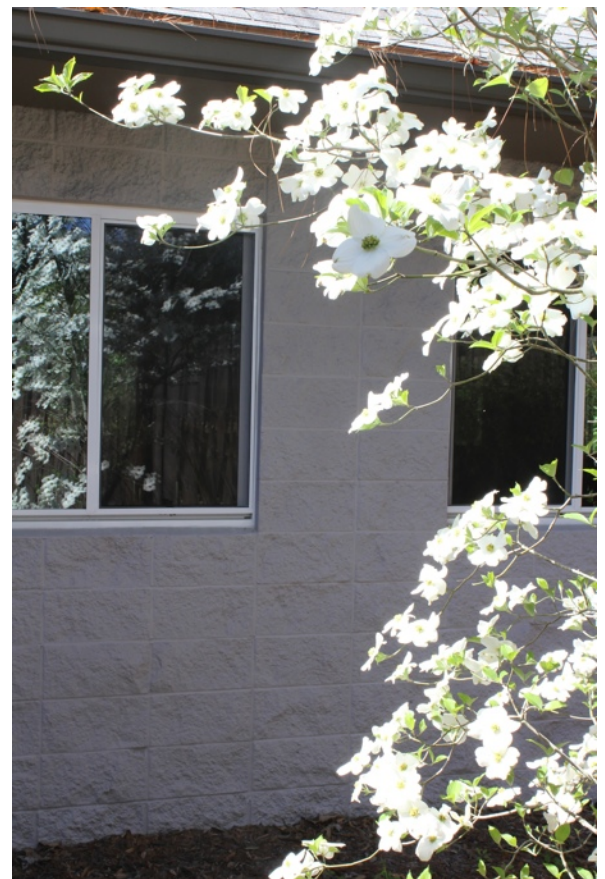


By the end of last month, spring flowers were really coming out. One meeting this month a redbud tree on the east side of the front retention basin glowed with the backlighting of the morning sun while I sat in meeting for worship. Another Sunday it was the flowers of the cherry laurels that caught my eye shining white against the glossy green foliage. Most recently the dogwood tree donated by Annie and David that grows behind the meetinghouse greeted me with radiant

## A Walk in the Quaker Woods

♦ Jean Larson ♦ March 21, 2011

Photographs by *Bill Mitchell*







blossoms.

The hophorn beam flowers that I had seen in bud and expected to be blooming at this time have, instead, disappeared presumably swept away in one of the recent storms that brought much needed water. The grassy parking bay by the back retention pond is filled with violets and lyreleaf sage. Just inside the woods the green dragons are coming up.

I walked through the woods on March 14 and wandered down the creek. I was surprised that it didn't turn south to the big sink just east of the apartment buildings, instead all of it tumbled down the hill heading toward our pond area. As I followed the creek bed, I noticed a fork of it heading in a new direction and found a new swampy place. One of the wonderful things about a floodplain



forest are the surprises waiting for you to discover.

On the way to the pond, which had standing water reflecting the greenery around it, Bill pointed out the Florida Yam putting out new leaves. It is from the same genus, *Discorea* (yam), as the air potato. When I walked up from the pond



along the west side of the front retention basin I spotted a flower on the red buckeye that had been planted the previous year and had dropped its leaves so early in the fall drought that I had not hoped to see it sprouting anew. Across the parking lot I spotted the coreopsis in front of the meetinghouse. It is good to see friends showing of their finery again.



From the Saint Patrick's Day Dinner

