

QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

FIRST MONTH, 2012

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Quaker Meetinghouse

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

Please Hold In the Light

Carol Clark

Morrie Trimmer

Marie and Dave Parsons

Eleanor and Andy Merritt



WORDS TO CONTEMPLATE

“Success . . . requires the finest core of values that illuminate people of very different backgrounds, views and interests. It is a search for common ground. . . in trying to find and build on ‘that of God’ in each person. Although fraught with difficulty, the process of working together on something as concrete as the development of one small town . . . helped break through years of hatred. To make things happen, we often need to find common values in people of opposing views. We need to seek the very best, the finest core values that can be held in common. These might – just might – have something to do with ‘that of God’ in each person.”

~Diane La Voy, Agency for International Development, policy bureau, quoted in *The Georgian*, George School’s magazine.

A WALK IN THE QUAKER WOODS

Explorations of the Meetinghouse Property

by Jean Larson with photographs by Bill Mitchell



Bill and I have been walking every Sunday so far this December and while there are not so many flowers blooming, there are still interesting things to see, including the faded blooms of the Oakleaf hydrangea at the end of the split rail fence. At the edge of the parking lot on the side with the front retention basin there is a small Yaupon holly which has put forth some shiny red berries. Florida has a number of native holly trees, including the Myrtle Leaf holly which is represented on our property by a tree donated by Bart Hulett. At the Cleaning and Greening party the day before our Christmas party, Bart decorated the Meetinghouse with armloads of these branches, bright with berries. At his

direction, we put some of the berry-laden branches in the bird feeder in hopes that birds would eat them and spread their seeds to other locations on the property. Most of the native holly trees are thornless, but we have low shrub-like American holly (*Ilex opaca*) with prickles.

We have been walking up the creek toward the Northwest corner of the property to check on the turtle whose portrait appeared last month. But then one Sunday the turtle was gone. Because we have been walking in the fall up the creek, we spotted some bright red tallow leaves floating in the water, and, looking up, saw the substantial tallow tree from which they came. It is likely the source of the tallow seedlings I had been finding downstream and pulling up as invasive exotics with the potential to disrupt the ecosystem.

Bill has continued to dig taro, especially from the pond area. He followed the root of a specimen that was about a foot and a half high and discovered it was as long as he was tall. Speaking of invasive exotics, the meeting will be participating in the *Great Air Potato Roundup* organized by the City of Gainesville on Saturday, January 28 from 9am to noon. This is an opportunity to spend time in the woods helping to improve the environment by gathering air potatoes and other invasive exotics, and any trash lying around for disposal by the city.

The vegetables planted by the children (*pictured on front page*) are enjoying the rain and cooler weather we have been having. In the adjacent beds, the golden rod has gone to seed and the wild flowers are growing well. We can expect more blooms in the coming year. Around the corner, behind the meetinghouse, the goose grass (*Galium aparine*, not *Eleusine indica*), a cool weather plant, is coming up. In some places this plant is known as sticky willy, since its hairy stems and leaves stick to your clothes. Bud Brennan's rose sported several blooms that were enjoyed during lunch since they were visible through the kitchen windows.

Frequently at the end of our walks we check on the longleaf pine planted a few years ago. Bill photographed the handsome bud, which is its growing tip. As the year closes, think about what you have done that you continue to enjoy: singing, laughing, eating together, sharing stories, or walking in the woods with a friend.

More photos from our "A Quaker Walk in the Woods" series can be found at www.gainesvillequakers.org. Select the "Committees menu," and click "Building & Grounds. Or, try the search feature.

MEMBER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member News

Andy & Eleanor Merrit have moved to The Village.

Jim Morrison continues his teaching assignment in Poland, and is still in need of American magazines to share with his students. Donations are welcome in the Meetinghouse Library.

First Day School Committee

Adult Friends, please remember to sign up to be the "Messenger" or "Story Teller" for First Day School. Someone will be in the room to manage the children's needs - all you need to do is share something from your life. The children have so enjoyed this, hearing stories about Quakerism and Quaker values. This is an important tool for strengthening our community, and for raising Quaker children.

Winter Adventure? Sandy Lyon and Jen Cotter, both avid outdoor people, are discussing the possibility of a winter camping trip (tent, cabins, and/or campers) or perhaps a beach weekend for our wee and young friends and their families. Mill Dam in Ocala National Forest and Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park near Keystone Heights are two good possibilities. If you are interested, please see Sandy and we will get together a planning committee and make this happen

Friendly Lunch

Friendly Lunch will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month. Due to the closing of the Book Lover's Café, we will meet at the Meetinghouse. Please bring a bag lunch.

Hospitality Committee

On January 8th at 9:30 the Hospitality committee will meet at the Meetinghouse.



On December 11th we had our annual Christmas party. It was joyful and merry. The Hospitality committee's Cleaning & Greening day had the Meetinghouse sparkling for the occasion.

Library Committee

On January 8th at 9:30 the Library committee will meet in the Meetinghouse library.

Newsletter & Website Committee

On January 29th at 1pm, Jen Ambrose Cotter from the Newsletter & Website committee will host a forum at the Meetinghouse “*GainesvilleQuakers.org: Nurturing our Online Community.*” Using the projector and an internet-connected computer, Jen will show us our new website, how it works, and how each of us can use this tool – and others – to nurture and share with our community.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee

On January 20th from 1-4pm there will be an event connected to the Move to Amend efforts to end Corporate Personhood in America by ratifying the constitution. “**Occupy The Courts**” is a day of action planned around the country to mark the second anniversary of the Citizens United v. FEC decision. Those who are able will occupy the Supreme Court in Washington D.C.. But similar to the Occupy Wall Street movement, those who cannot travel to D.C. are urged to participate at their closest Federal Courthouse.

Dr. Cornel West (pictured at right), civil rights activist and professor at Princeton University, will be in Gainesville for the day addressing the public on this issue.

The event will start at 1pm in Bo Diddley Plaza in downtown Gainesville. After several speakers and performances, the gathered crowd will march to the Federal Court Building at 401 Southeast 1st Ave.



For more information on Move to Amend, see <http://movetoamend.org/occupythecourts>.

On January 20th at 7pm we will show the film *Friendly Persuasion* at the Meetinghouse. *Friendly Persuasion* is a 1956 film starring Gary Cooper. The film tells the story of a pacifist Quaker family in southern Indiana during the American Civil War.

ProNica/Guatemala Fundraiser

On January 21st at 6pm we will have a Chinese food potluck and fundraiser to benefit ProNica and projects in Guatemala. Mark your calendar!

Yoga with Gary

Please note that the Yoga with Gary is tentatively planned to resume on January 16th.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sun Jan 1, 2012

11am - 12pm Meeting for Worship; 11:15am - 12pm First Day School

Tue Jan 3, 2012

11:30am - 12:30pm Friendly Lunch at the Meetinghouse. Bring a bag lunch.

Sun Jan 8, 2012

9:30am - 10:30am Hospitality Committee Meeting

9:30am - 10:30am Library Committee Meeting

11am - 12pm Meeting for Worship; 11:15am - 12pm First Day School

12:45pm - 2:15pm Meeting for Worship for Business

Sun Jan 15, 2012

9:30am - 10:30am Singing!

11am - 12pm Meeting for Worship; 11:15am - 12pm First Day School

12pm - 1pm Rise of Meeting Potluck

Mon Jan 16, 2012

6pm - 7pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Fri Jan 20, 2012

1pm - 4pm Occupy the Courts with Dr. Cornel West: *March against Corporate Personhood from Gainesville's Downtown Plaza to Gainesville's Federal Courthouse.*

7pm - 9pm Film Night: Friendly Persuasion at the Meetinghouse

Sat Jan 21, 2012

6pm - 7pm Guatemala/ProNica Fundraiser & Potluck Chinese Dinner

Sun Jan 22, 2012

9:30am - 10:30am Peace & Social Concerns Committee Meeting in the Meetinghouse Library

11am - 12pm Meeting for Worship; 11:15am - 12pm First Day School

12:30pm - 1:30pm Bible Study

2:30pm - 4pm Nominating Committee Meeting

Mon Jan 23, 2012

6pm - 7pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Sat Jan 28, 2012

9am - 10am Great Air Potato Roundup

Sun Jan 29, 2012

11am - 12pm Meeting for Worship; 11:15am - 12pm First Day School

1pm - 2:30pm Forum: "*GainesvilleQuakers.org: Nurturing our Online Community*"

Mon Jan 30, 2012

6pm - 7pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

Sun Feb 5, 2012

11am - 12pm Meeting for Worship; 11:15am - 12pm First Day School

Mon Feb 6, 2012

6pm - 7pm Yoga with Gary Arthur at the Meetinghouse

QUERIES & ADVICES

“Meeting for Worship”

Queries: 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? **Advices:** 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.

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of the Religious Society of Friends
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