

**Gainesville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of
Friends
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
8th Month**

Queries and Advice for the 8th Month were read by Karen Porter.

Treasurer's Report: See attached

Finance Committee

1. U.N. Day – Oct. 23rd, GFM always participates and is a sponsor --- would like to request \$25 from the treasurer. –The theme this year is Environmental Resources.
2. **MINUTE 08-08-22: The meeting approves \$25 to be paid for Gainesville Friends Meeting to be co-sponsors of United Nations Day on Oct. 23, 2008.**

Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Jim Morrison reported. We have been continuing our work to support universal single payer health care and the banning of cluster bombs and promoting peace in the Middle East. As always, we encourage people to send letters and emails to their elected representatives and write letters to the editor. When we do not send out special Action Alerts, we encourage people to consult the Friends Committee on National Legislation website or get on their listserver to receive regular messages and alerts about critical issues.

In July, we sponsored a forum on the problem of “Growing Inequality in America,” and showed a Bill Moyers’ Journal (6/13/08) piece on the issue with Holly Sklar (*Raise the Floor*) and Steve Fraser (*Wall Street*). We had a very lively discussion following the presentation.

On Aug. 3, we sponsored a forum on Darfur: “How Do Quakers Deal with Dafur?” We showed the documentary film, “*The Devil Came on Horseback*,” followed by discussion.

We are working on a possible Labor Day forum on the 31st of August and then one on homelessness in September – maybe with the Unitarians. Jim Morrison spoke with Alice Primack at the Unitarian Fellowship. She passed the idea around, and they would like to join us in the effort, possibly even doing something at the downtown Plaza where there would be many of the homeless present.

The Unitarians also asked Jim Morrison to show *"The Devil Came on Horseback"* and lead a discussion on Darfur at their monthly film night on Aug. 16. Any Friends who didn't get to see the film last week are welcome to attend.

We agreed to have the Peace and Social Concerns Committee sign on to the signature ad in support of HR #676, SPS universal health care that is being circulated by the Labor Party. We hope to encourage others to join us as individual signatories.

We collectively wrote a letter to the *Gainesville Sun* calling for action to help those threatened with foreclosure because of health costs, job loss, and rising prices. Jim Morrison will send it in to the *Sun* in the name of the Committee. (See letter below.)

Letter to the Gainesville Sun:

"It is no secret that we are in the midst of a serious housing crisis that threatens the entire economy. The pundits, press, and politicians have focused on speculators, fraudulent lending practices, and giving loans to financially unqualified borrowers. Rarely, however, has there been any discussion of other major causes of housing loan defaults, such as illness and major medical expenses, loss of jobs, divorce, and rising fuel, energy, and food costs that push people over the edge into foreclosure – or even homelessness. As our federal government moves to bail out failing financial institutions, we also need to address these other causes of default, mend frayed social safety net, and address the 30-year stagnation in real wages of our working people."

--The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the Gainesville Religious Society of Friends (emailed to the *Sun* on July 29)

Film Committee: Our July 18 Movie Night at the meetinghouse featured the very moving film *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*. Our upcoming Aug. 15 Movie Night at the meetinghouse will be a children's film, *The Last Mimzy*. We welcome suggestions for September, October, and November.

First-Day School Committee: Laura Winefordner reported. We met on Aug. 3 to make plans for the school year beginning in September. We plan to have three groups: teens/pre-teens, elementary, and preschool.

On Sept. 7, the First-Day School plans a forum with a movie and popcorn for children to celebrate the start of a new school year.

Plans for the teens/pre-teens include:

First Firstdays: helping the two younger groups; second Firstdays: activities arranged by Catherine Puckett and the students; third Firstdays: Earthcare Witness Committee activities; fourth Firstdays: students attend Meeting for Worship or have

their own worship sharing or plans. Fifth Sundays will be dedicated to some special activity.

We plan to work closely with the Earthcare Witness Committee to cooperate with and build on their plans. Other topics will include creek water testing, Bono, fish bowl, write and present a play, study testimonies, peaceful communication, asking adult Friends to speak, and social events.

Plans for the elementary group include the Friends General Conference Dr. Seuss program, joining the teens/pre-teens on third First Days, and building a wetlands exhibit.

The preschool children will concentrate on stories, sharing, art activities, and active games outside and more.

We need two, sometimes three, adults to help most First Days. We will post a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, and we will also pass it around. This is going to be lots of fun – we have a marvelous group of children.

Lyn Cope (SEYM) let us know that people who are already cleared to work with children elsewhere can request that the information be sent to SEYM.

We would like to have floor covering over the concrete in the classroom. We've done a little research. Marmoleum, which is friendly to the environment, is available at Indigo and runs about \$10 per square foot with installation. This would be about \$2000. Vinyl, available from Carpet One, would be about \$600 installed. The room has 208 square feet. We will let this decision season. Meanwhile, Laura Winefordner will do more research, and Catherine Puckett will ask the owner of Indigo if we could get a discount as a nonprofit.

Ministry and Nurture Committee: Connie Ray reported. Karen Porter will call David Chalmers about need for food/caretaking for Jean Chalmers, who suffered a ruptured appendix. Connie Ray will purchase a card.

Megan Fogarty and Poe Darko are proud parents, and Kieran Darko the delighted older brother, of a new baby boy, Brendia Osei Darko. The baby was 7 lbs, 8 oz and healthy and born on Aug. 2nd. Dick and Gene Beardsley will bring card to pass around at meeting for the new baby.

Earth-Care Witness Committee: Karen Arrington reported. At July's Earthcare Witness for First-Day School, the children modeled animal and other shapes out of clay. The purpose was to honor all creation. While making their beautiful creations, the children shared their interests and spoke about their summer activities.

For adult Earthcare Witness, we had a good turnout on the subject of wise shopping. We learned where to buy local milk from grass-fed cows not fed hormones. We learned how important it is to avoid propylene glycol in our cosmetics and food. A handout will be written on these and other tips.

Karen Arrington reported that there is no place to recycle medicine except at Wise's Pharmacy on University Avenue, which will take recycled pharmaceuticals if they are dumped into their bin. S and P Recycling will take empty Rx bottles – Dick Beardsley will make a nice container that is secure. Karen will do a handout and write a newsletter submission about this activity.

On Sept. 21, after potluck, the Earthcare Witness Committee has invited Brian Blackmore to discuss his Pendle Hill experiences, which included sustainable living.

Hospitality Committee: No report.

Meetinghouse Committee: No report.

School Committee: No report.

Old Business:

3. Catherine Puckett and Brian Blackmore will meet to discern clearness on teaching teens at SEYM.
4. Brian Blackmore would like to have an anchoring/nurturing committee for support and accountability during this new endeavor. On Aug. 26th, they will meet with Brian. Jean Larson and Catherine Puckett will follow through on the letter to Ellie Caldwell recommending Brian.
5. GI Rights Hotline Counter-Recruitment Guide is ready to go to print. (Karen Porter).
6. With Jeannie Buskirk possibly laying down the Nonviolent Communications group, Ministry and Nurture will talk to Jim Porter and Jeannie – Jeannie to make sure she wants to lay this down, Jim to ask if he wants to take this up. This person would also need to be responsible for meetinghouse obligations in opening and closing meetinghouse for meetings, and clean up.
7. Garage Sale Aug 23rd. We are hoping people will bring things next Sunday or during the week. We have some help. Betty Odum and Laura Winefordner will be at the meetinghouse on Aug. 22nd to have it organized by table and price – all we have to do is cart the items out and put them on the table. We need six or seven people. Malia has a cash box she will try to get for them. Laura will bring change. Opens at 8 a.m., closes at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Elizabeth Puckett, recording clerk