

Gainesville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Minutes, December 21, 2008

Jean Larson, Clerk

Catherine Puckett, Recording Clerk

After a worshipful silence, Bart Hulett read the Queries for the 12th month.

The Minutes of the October business meeting were read and approved as amended.

The clerk read a note from the students of the Little Turtle Academy, who thanked the meeting for allowing them to use the meetinghouse for their art show.

The meeting would like to thank Allen Sawyer for his generous help in moving and tuning the meetinghouse piano.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Mitchell reported that the meeting has a contribution deficit of about \$6,000. The meeting will remind members in the newsletter that contributions are welcome and are tax-deductible. The fundraising committee was asked if it would consider taking on getting the general fund in better condition in January, February, and March 2009, with a goal of making up the December deficit and to be in better condition for the rest of next year.

Minute 08-12-12. The meeting would like to thank those adults who helped produce the children's Christmas play, *The Mitten*: Odalis Manduley (and what a mitten you created!), Jim and Karen Porter, Tracy Jeshow and Skip Skidmore, Megan Barolet-Fogarty, Laura Winefordner, Catherine Puckett and Nicole Domingues (who stepped in at the last minute and played a great rabbit). With such an abundance of talent and love for the children in the meeting, everyone had a great time. Also, the meeting would like to note its appreciation for the time and energy the two young friend producers spent on helping the younger friends produce the play: Cecilia Haecker and Eric Skidmore. The Christmas party was also made more joyful by Annie McPherson and David Cook, who led the singing, and who were open to including tunes requested by young friends like "I Saw Momma Kissing Santa Claus." We would also like to thank Robert Roberg, Nicole Domingues, and Skip Skidmore for their generous musical contributions. Thanks to Mona Morris for organizing the Christmas feast. Jerry Riverstone and Bud Brennan are thanked for taking on the Herculean task of cleaning the kitchen.

Stamp Project – The stamp project is ongoing; please drop stamps in the box in the meetinghouse. Twenty people are regularly providing stamps for the project.

The clerk read a letter from Karl Miller requesting membership in the meeting. The letter was given to Ministry and Nurture.

ProNica and Youth Delegation to Nicaragua: Cecilia Haecker and Nicole Domingues request support from the Gainesville Friends Meeting to participate in the SEYM youth delegation trip to Nicaragua in June 2009. They request scholarships from the Gainesville Meeting and from SEYM.

Minute 08-12-13: The meeting approves scholarships for Cecilia Haecker and Nicole Domingues to travel to Nicaragua as part of the SEYM youth delegation in June 2009 for up to \$500, but no more than one-third of the total cost (the exact amount to be determined). We ask that the youth report back after the trip.

SEYM: Catherine Puckett reported that she was asked to consider a position as the assistant clerk of SEYM's Half-Yearly Meeting for 2009, followed by the clerk position in 2010. She accepted the positions.

Peace and Social Concerns: Continuing with ongoing activities. January 2009 Forum will be on the Road Map to Peace. A forum on health care options is planned in February. The committee decided on four activities to help the homeless and needy: adopt a family and buy gifts for them; collect food items for Gainesville Community Ministries; collect blankets and warm clothing; and collect t-shirts for the Reichert House project.

Film Committee: Film Night will resume in January 2009. Suggestions are welcomed.

Ministry and Nurture: The meeting notes with sadness the passing of Bill Howard, whose attendance is the longest of anyone in our meeting. A Memorial Meeting for Worship is planned for Dec. 29 at 11 a.m.

Minute 08-12-14: The meeting lays down the membership of Tiffany Barger on due to loss of contact.

Minute 08-12-15: The meeting lays down the membership of Tanya Lawrence due to loss of contact.

Minute 08-12-16: The meeting joyfully accepts the membership of Sandy Lyon.

Minute 08-12-17: The meeting joyfully accepts the membership of Brian Blackmore.

To avoid conflicts, the committee reminds committees and others that meeting activities scheduled for the use of the meetinghouse need to be cleared by the person who makes the calendar for each month (at present Jean Larson).

The SEYM Friends United Meeting Discernment Group will be meeting here on Saturday, Feb. 28th; lunch and some overnight hospitality will be needed.

A Memorial Meeting for Worship for Marylynn Hall will be held on Jan. 10 at 2 p.m.; the Hospitality Committee will arrange food.

Quaker Study Group – The meeting proposes that the Quaker Study Group will regularly meet here at the meetinghouse, with occasional meetings in Ocala.

Hospitality: The committee is managing the memorial for Bill Howard and also for Marylynn Hall. On Jan. 24th, the meeting will host its annual Chinese dinner and white elephant auction to benefit ProNica and the Guatemalan scholarship fund. The next Quaker Market Dinner will be in February; hospitality will arrange. Mona Morris will contact Annie McPherson about a possible Peace Concert. The committee agreed to take on the management of regular fundraising dinners again, including a chili cook-off.

Library: Betty Odum reported. Regular activities continue. Brian Blackmore is the clerk of the Friends reading group. The next reading group will meet at 4 p.m. on Jan. 25th in the meetinghouse. The book will be *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah.

The meeting ended with silence.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Puckett