

Gainesville Friends Meeting
April 10, 2011
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Attended: 8

Tim Fogarty read the Query and the Advices for fourth month.

Treasurer's Report. There was no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ministry and Nurture committee: Connie Ray reported. Connie and members of the SEYM Archives committee and volunteers worked at the University of Florida archives. The archives committee is checking content. The committee requests that committee reports, especially peace and social concerns, be attached to the Minutes from now on. This has been done in the last months. If old ones can be found they would be useful; Jim Morrison will see what he can find.

There is a concern that documents deteriorate. At the UF library, paper documents are being kept under special conditions. Jim Morrison explained that electronic content can be changed to the newest device. We will save our documents both on paper and electronically. The Archives Committee recommends only paper copies.

Arlene Epperson and Marcella Roman and are going to the SEYM gathering. Our meeting's scholarship funds will pay their expenses.

The brochure for senior citizens, "Gainesville Friends Invite You to Retire Here" will be distributed at yearly meetings and the FGC gathering at Grinnell College.

The Retreat, *Nuts and Bolts of Quakerism*, will be held on May 7, from 9 to 4. The convener is Phoebe Andersen of Tallahassee Meeting.

The schedule is:

8:30 – 9 breakfast treat – popovers and jam

9 am – morning session

12 noon - lunch- sandwiches, cookies and drinks

1 pm – 4 - afternoon worship-sharing

Donations of cookies will be needed

Sibyl Brennan was concerned that people might not come. Because we are especially targeting newcomers, we should hire someone for childcare. CiCi Haecker will be asked. We will give the sitter a contract so that she is paid, even if there are no children. Ministry and Nurture committee will pay for 9 hours. Jim Morrison was asked to send a flyer out by email. Ministry and Nurture committee members will make calls.

It was announced that there will be a special meeting at SEYM for Young Adult Quakers, 18-35 .

The emergency information form is needed from everyone. If there is a concern about privacy, the form can be put in sealed envelope. They will be kept in the file cabinet in the library. Someone needs to walk around to make people fill it out.

Peace and Social Concerns. Jim Morrison reported. Their two primary focuses for this year are:

- 1) Reducing poverty, especially of children - reducing gap between rich and poor
- 2) Revitalizing our democracy – redistricting, political ads, increasing participation

A plan for an organic garden was tabled for lack of leadership. Mary Dewey is happy to have people help with her community garden project.

Don Smith reminded us of the many interesting activities of the local Mennonites. Anyone who wants to be on Mennonite mailing list should give his/her name to Jim Morrison. Eve McMaster, their pastor, is leading a forum here on May 1.

On April 3 Shawna Doran and Michael Canney showed pictures of the country and the work of Haitian educators, midwives, and social workers. They also discussed their dream of establishing a permanent program in Haiti: Pro-Haiti.

The regular meeting scheduled for Easter morning is postponed. The whole report is attached to these Minutes.

Film. Jim Morrison reported that we showed "Cuckoo." On March 23 we showed a film as a special fundraiser for Japanese Quake/Tsunami/Nuclear power plant victims. A former PK Yonge exchange student (2009-2010), Tomoka Sumikawa, gave a brief talk about her experiences in the quake, and we showed a very moving film, "Cherry Blossoms" We had about 8 people in addition to Tomoka and her sponsor, and raised \$300.

On April 15 we will show "I Am Sam."

Building and Grounds and Landscaping. Walter Morris reported that the committee has signed contract with David Pais to do the complete job of planting on the front slope.

Fundraising committee. Walter and Mona Morris reported. We took part in the fair at Gainesville Women's Club. The whole fair had almost no attendance and was such a failure that we lost \$7.50: the cost of our booth was \$65 and we sold \$48.50.

The next craft sale will be simple gifts at Hallowe'en time.

We plan a yard sale at Betty Odum's Moving Sale. Laura Winefordner will be in charge.

First Day School Laura Winefordner reported that everyone who helps with children should complete the Shephard's Watch forms.

Hospitality Mona reported.

It was suggested that there be a little tag on the coffee pot to indicate when the coffee is done.

Wedding plans for Smiti Nepal and Elliott Campbell are going well. Helpers are needed for the reception. Laura Winefordner and Dick Beardsley are the Gainesville Meeting committee. They may ask CiCi to help serve.

The Work Day will be April 30 from 9-5. As Mona said "Volunteers, come when you can and leave when you must." Walter will have a list of things to do, and there will be refreshments.

The Welcoming to Membership party for Shawna Doran will be April 29, 7pm at Gary Arthur's. There was a concern that welcoming someone to the Meeting should usually be at Meeting House.

NEW BUSINESS

Sybil Brennan brought up a concern for the Friends Journal . It needs financial support. Although we gave special donation last year, we recommend that it be a regular line item, with a budget of \$500. Mona Morris will discuss this with Bill Mitchell for the new budget.

There was a question about Quaker Quest, the new outreach program promoted by FGC. Ministry and Nurture is planning a forum on Nov. 6 to discuss Quaker Quest.

Sybil Brennan will send the registration dates for the FGC gathering to the newsletter. The gathering is July 3-9 in Grinnell College.

A letter from Tyson Cook, a recently sojourning Friend, was read. Tyson was pleased with the outcome of our Meeting's concern for his sister and her fiancé. Bud Brennan and others met with the couple and their families. Friends Meetings will not marry anyone without the couple's consulting with a clearness committee. Tyson is settled in Orlando and wants to keep in touch. His email is now TysonKuch@gmail.com.

Bud Brennan appealed to Ministry and Nurture to take up the problem of committee members being late for meeting times. The nominating committee is preparing a guide for clerks of committees. It will strongly recommend that clerks make definite schedules and send reminders.

A concern was expressed that committees should have worship before and after their business meetings.

The business meeting ended with silence

Respectfully submitted by Betty Odum

Minutes

From the Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Sunday, March 27, 2011

Attending: Walter and Mona Morris, Tim Ray, Don Smith, Sybil Brennan Arlene Epperson, Jim Morrison.

Announcements: We had a special film (Cherry Blossoms) fundraiser for the Japanese disaster victims last Wednesday, March 23, with Japanese student guest Tomoka Sumikawa (returning to Gainesville for 10 days to be the family who hosted her when she was a PK Yonge student 2 years ago) with about 8 people attending. [Even with that small group, we were able to raise \$300 for the relief fund (American Red Cross).]

The Organic Gardens ad hoc committee is continuing its work. The Building and Grounds Committee (Walter Morris reporting) is asking the committee to do 4/5 things: 1) Appoint a Point Person (Dick Beardsley) to be in charge, 2) Development an irrigation plan, 3) Make a list of all the people who guarantee that they will work on maintaining the garden year-round—perhaps the most important requirement. 4) Create a garden plan (number, size, location of beds, what will be grown, who will pay for setting it up, and who will reap the benefits. [Mary Dewey later invited anyone in the Meeting to join her on her organic gardening plot on the east side of town.]

This is Farm Workers Awareness Week. There will be a talk at the Main Library on Wednesday, March 30 (time unknown), and we are asked to sign a petition asking Publix to pay an additional penny/lb for their tomatoes. We agreed to sign the petition as a committee and to ask Richard Macmasters to send us a copy for individuals to sign next week.

Jim talked about the importance of asking everyone to call their Senators to urge them to continue full support for NPR before their vote next week. (The House voted last week to cut funding completely.)

Don Smith talked about the work of the Gainesville Interfaith Peace Coalition (now the Beltram Peace Center, affiliated with the Fellowship of Reconciliation, at the Mennonite Meeting House. They are calling on us to cooperate with them in their efforts and send a regular representative to their Program Committee. We agreed in principle to cooperate with them fully Jim Morrison and Tim Ray will attend as our representatives. We will ask

members of the Meeting if they wish to be added to Eve Macmasters' emailing list. Don will work up a proposal for him to serve as part of a special Ministry of Moral and Legal Counseling to support the peace efforts of the Beltram Peace Center. We also talked about having a special Forum to present the work of the Peace Center in May or June, depending on When Eve can attend.

We talked briefly about the problem of the growing gap between the rich and poor, child poverty, and the need to consider what to do about it.

[Because our next scheduled meeting, April 24, is Easter Sunday, we may have to reschedule.]

Report to the Meeting for Worship for Business

From the Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Sunday, February 13, 2011

At our last meeting (March 27) we reaffirmed our overall focus as working on two broad umbrella topics: 1) Reducing the gap between rich and poor and ending poverty (including the problems of jobs, living wage, health care for all, homelessness, better education, social security protection), and 2) Revitalizing our Democracy (including reigning in the power of corporations, wall street, banks, and the very rich, ending corporate personhood, fair districting, campaign finance reform and government-financed elections, full disclosure of political contributions and who is paying for political ads, increasing citizen participation). In addition, however, we will continue to express our views on our traditional peace-making concerns, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the wars in Iran and Afghanistan, and our efforts to ban land mines and cluster bombs. Although it is probably not going to be on the agenda this year, we will continue to urge government and private efforts to deal with the problem of global climate change and the need for alternative clean and renewable energy sources.

We encouraged people to contact their Senators and urge them not to go along with the House decision to end all government support for NPR. Jim prepared and distributed an action alert modeled after the one last month aimed at our House Representatives.

Tim Ray prepared and passed out an Action Alert urging our members to contact their elected representatives to follow principles of fairness and social justice in the upcoming budget cut debate

We also discussed the need for focusing more on about the problem of the growing gap between the rich and poor, child poverty, and the need to consider what to do about it.

We had a lengthy discussion of the idea of starting an Organic Garden on the Meeting House grounds. Walter presented the concerns of the Building and Grounds Committee, who said that we first need to do several things 1) Appoint a Point Person (Dick Beardsley) to be in charge, 2) Development an irrigation plan, 3) Make a list of all the people who guarantee that they will work on maintaining the garden year-round—perhaps the most important requirement. 4) Create a garden plan (number, size, location of beds, what will be grown, who will pay for setting it up, and who will reap the benefits. We concluded that we need to table the project for now, given the problem of finding enough committed people to work on the project. (Mary Dewey later invited anyone in the Meeting to join her on her organic gardening plot on the east side of town.)

Don Smith talked about the work of the Beltram Peace Center (formerly the Interfaith Peace Coalition) and their hope that we can work more closely with them and coordinate more effectively our mutual work for peace and social justice. Tim Ray and Jim Morrison agreed to be our liaison persons with the Peace Center. Don will work up a proposal for him to serve as part of a special Ministry of Moral and Legal Counseling to support the peace

efforts of the Beltram Peace Center. We also agreed to invite Eve Macmaster to lead a forum on May 1 and talk about the work of the center and how we might work together. We will ask members of the Meeting if they wish to be added to Eve Macmasters' emailing list.

On April 3 Shawna Doran and Michael on their trip to Haiti showed hundreds of moving pictures of the country and the work of Haitian educators, midwives, and social workers. They also discussed their dream of establishing a permanent program in Haiti: Pro-Haiti.

Possible future forums include: "What Muslims Believe," the Quaker Letter-writing tradition and revitalizing our democracy.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for April 24 at 9:40.

FILM COMMITTEE REPORT

Our March 18 film was "The Cuckoo," about an unlikely meeting in northern Finland near the end of WW II of 3 people who have no language in common, but who, despite their misperceptions and circumstances manage to find peace and serenity.

On March 23 we showed a film as a special fundraiser for Japanese Quake/Tsunami/Nuclear power plant victims. A former PK Yonge exchange student (2009-2010), Tomoka Sumikawa, gave a brief talk about her experiences in the quake and we showed a very moving film, "Cherry Blossoms," which takes place in modern-day Japan. We had about 8 people in addition to Tomoka and her sponsor, and managed to raise \$300.

