

Gainesville Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
Fifth Month 8, 2011
Mona Morris, Clerk

Attendance: 15

From the silence Gary Arthur read the Query and Advices for 5th month. After adjustments to the agenda we continued with the minutes for the Fourth Month, which were approved with some corrections. We then approved the minutes for the Third Month which were not approved last month.

The Treasurer's Report for Third Month was presented by Mona Morris in the absence of the treasurer.

The Budget Report was also presented by Mona Morris.

11-5-11: Gainesville Monthly Meeting approves the budget for 2011 -- 2012 with the addition from the Fourth Month minutes of the "Friends Journal" as a line item with \$200.

Sybil Brennan presented the Nominating Committee report.

Mona Morris proposed a retreat follow-up building on the retreat of yesterday, especially one when our new clerk can attend. She reminded us that we encourage people who are new to the meeting to attend a committee meeting in which they have an interest, with the exception of the Ministry and Nurture Committee, which requires prior arrangements.

11-5-12: Gainesville Friends Meeting approves the list of nominees for 2011—2012 with thanks to the Nominating Committee for its excellent work.

Ministry and Nurture Committee: Connie Ray presented the report.

"We discussed some of the people we have been holding in the Light. We are glad that Dick Beardsley is healing from his surgery. We noted some people we see at Meeting for Worship who are not in our directory and we plan to ask them if they would like to be included.

"We planned ways to personally notify people in the meeting about the retreat, 'The Nuts and Bolts of Quakerism,' held Saturday, May 7, 2011. We approved the use of Ministry and Nurture funds to pay for child care for this event. We agreed to use the Gainesville Friends Meeting emergency contact and SEYM End of Life form and urge everyone to fill one out. Completed forms will be kept in the meeting library.

We asked Mona Morris, clerk of the meeting, to welcome the Shawna Doran to our meeting at a party held in her honor on April 29, 2011 and to tell everyone there that the meeting's present to her will be the renewal of Shawna's subscription to the Friends Journal.

We have not yet chosen a topic for the forum that has been reserved for our committee on May 29. Input from people who are not on the committee is welcome."

Connie Ray passed around copies of the final draft of the brochure for attracting Friends to Gainesville. We expressed gratitude for the time and talent involved in producing this beautiful, informative, useful document.

11-5-13: Gainesville Friends Meeting approves with thanks this brochure which the Ministry and Nurture Committee will disseminate to Friends gatherings as it deems appropriate.

11-5-14: Gainesville Friends Meeting approves the following people named by the Ministry of Nurture Committee to the Nominating Committee for 2011 -- 2012: Sybil Brennan, Gene Beardsley, Arnold Von der Porten, Betty Odum.

Connie Ray passed around a draft of the meeting's fund-raising letter. "It includes the amount of money the meeting contributes to Southeastern Yearly Meeting for each member and attender. We hope this will raise the awareness of people, especially those people who contribute but live at a distance, that the meeting supports the yearly meeting financially. We still let active attenders know that their participation in meeting is welcome and appreciated as contributing to the meeting regardless of their ability to contribute financially."

We noted some typos and other minor corrections.

11-5-15: Gainesville Friends Meeting approves the revised draft of the meeting's fund-raising letter.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Jim Morrison's report is addendum #1.

Mona Morris noted that the film projector is still broken, and that Jim Morrison has been unable to contact the manufacturer. Bud Brennan told us the projector was from the Home Shopping Network. Tim Ray will let Jim Morrison know so that he can try to find a way to repair the projector through HSN or if necessary look into a local repair service.

Hospitality Committee: Mona Morris reported several items. We will need to provide some hospitality for the Pro-Nica board meeting to be held here on September 10. In addition to its business meeting, the board plans a program to entice community people to attend.

The plans for the wedding of Elliott Campbell and Smiti Nepal are progressing. The Ministry and Nurture Committee will consider naming a committee replacement for Dick Beardsley who is still recovering from knee surgery.

The simple gifts fall sale is set for October 29. Although a group is meeting regularly to prepare crafts for the sale, we are urged to work during the summer to make sure we have plenty of items.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting Gathering: Betty Odum submitted a written report, addendum #2.

Emergency information forms: we have not had much response to these forms. Sandy Lyon plans to approach people personally with a form on a clip board.

We are planning to have Betty Odum's moving sale in August, tentatively set for August 13. Laura Winefordner will organize it, but we need many helpers and someone who can set the prices. The proceeds of the sale will come to the meeting.

Mona Morris will work with the Ministry and nurture committee to set a date for a follow-up to our retreat.

Mona Morris read a beautiful letter of thanks from Arlene Epperson for her experiences at the SEYM gathering. She wrote: "...I came away from my experience at SEYM with a sense that this community of Quakers truly values each individual member and attender..."

The meeting closed in silence.

Laura Winefordner, assistant recording clerk

Addendum #1

Minutes From the Peace and Social Concerns Committee Sunday, April 24, 2011

Announcements: Because our regular meeting scheduled for today falls on Easter Sunday and so many people are out of town at the SEYM gathering or visiting friends and family, we elected not to meet this month. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, May 23, at 9:40 in the Meeting House Library.

Report to the Meeting for Worship for Business From the Peace and Social Concerns Committee Sunday, May 9, 2011

Because our regular April meeting fell on Easter Sunday and so many people were going to be out of town at the SEYM gathering or visiting friends and family, we elected not to meet last month. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, May 23, at 9:40 in the Meeting House Library.

We continued to encourage people to contact their elected representatives to urge them to support—or to oppose—a number of significant legislative proposals that are of concern to us.

We sponsored a Forum on May 1 led by Eve and Richard Macmasters, describing the history and the ongoing work of the Mennonite Church and the Beltram Peace Center. She encouraged us to continue our cooperation with them and to think about new projects on which we could work together. We had 15 in attendance. At our March meeting we agreed that Tim Ray, Jim Morrison, and Don Smith (ex-officio because he is already a member of the Peace Center

Steering Committee) will represent us at the Center's meetings. (Subsequently it was suggested that the Meeting for Business may want to ask them to represent the entire meeting as well.)

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

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for May23 at 9:40.

FILM COMMITTEE REPORT

Our March 18 film was "The Cuckoo," but our April 15 film had to be canceled at the last minute because the projector would not respond when turned on.

Our April 21 film is going to be "The Radicals"—if we can get the projector repaired by then. This feature film is an intriguing story of the anabaptist movement in the 16th century. This was an important, but often neglected, part of the Reformation, and gave rise directly or indirectly to a number of important religious descendents, including the Mennonites Bretheren, Quakers, and Baptists.

Addendum #2

Report from an attender at SEYM 2011
April 21-24, 2011

Eleven members and attenders from Gainesville Meeting attended SEYM 2011. They were: Gary Arthur, Sybil Brennan, Betty Odum, Arlene Epperson, Anna Angell, Sheree Sims, Marcela Roman, Cheryl Demers-Holton, Connie Ray, Tim Ray, and ??

Betty Odum's comments

A mentoring program was set up for first time attenders I was Arlene's "mentor".

Worship Sharing: I like it because it is worship and sharing, with directed content.

The theme of the yearly meeting was racism among Quakers, historically and now.

The Walton lecturers were Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye, speaking on their book *Fit for Freedom and Not for Friendship*, about the history of race relations in the Society of Friends. I missed the Wednesday and Thursday sessions with them. Gainesville Meeting held a discussion the week before, concentrating on our Meeting's history of relations with local African Americans.

Business sessions. Susan Taylor is an excellent clerk. Part of her effectiveness is her "moment of silence" both when something has been decided and when controversies have become intense.

Quaker Quest Tallahassee Meeting carried out the first part of Quaker Quest. They called it Quaker Inreach since it was not outreach to the community. Their first session was led by FGC facilitators. The meeting continued the program and found it so useful that they brought it to the yearly meeting as a workshop. I think our meeting would like to try the inreach part of Quaker Quest.

Fishbowl Teens and YAQ (Young Adult Quakers, 18-35), in a circle, are asked questions by older adults, sitting in a circle around them. Then the questions are asked of the adults. The hardest

questions this year were about how to talk to someone of a different age group. These questions were a far cry from a couple of years ago when it was sex and drugs.

Sales I helped with book selling a couple of days, and bought some books for the Meeting. I also couldn't resist the t-shirts with the lion lying down with the lamb.

Dinner and singing As usual the food was excellent. They even had vegan and non-gluten dishes. The hymn singing is always uplifting, but this year we had to use Methodist hymn books – they didn't have our George Fox song.

Dancing Gary's dances are always fun. He has a great way of being patient when he is feeling impatient.