

QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
702 NW 38th Street, Gainesville, FL 32607; (352) 372-1070

www.gainesvillequakers.org

Sandy Lyon, clerk

Letting go of self is an essential precondition to real seeing.

Freeman Patterson

Hold in the Light: Hap Taylor, Anne and Phil Haisley, Connie and Tim Ray, Arnold and Amy Von der Porten.

Calendar of Events: (online at www.gainesvillequakers.org) \

Every Sunday: 11:00 am Meeting for Worship; 11:15 am First Day School

Every Monday: 5:30 pm Yoga with Gary — YOGA RESUMES ON AUGUST 28

Every Monday: 7:30 pm Candlelight Vigil at Bo Diddley Plaza

Sunday, August 6

9:30 am Library committee

9:30 am Meetinghouse committee

Sunday, August 13

12:45 pm No Meeting for Worship for Business

Sunday, August 20

9:45 pm Earthcare Witness Committee

12:45 pm: Called Meeting for Worship for Business

Wednesday, August 23

Deadline for newsletter items. Email to Bonnie Zimmer at gfquakernews@gmail.com

Sunday, August 27

9:40 am Peace and Social Concerns Committee

1:00 pm Bible Study

The **Outreach Committee** is responsible for organizing set-up and clean-up of food after Meeting for Worship. The list for committees responsible for set-up and clean-up is located on the bulletin board in the social room.

Called Meeting for Worship for Business

The regular Meeting for Worship for Business will be rescheduled to Sunday, August 20.

Several people expect to be out of the area on August 13 and there are only 2 known items of business to be attended to by the Meeting. Ministry and Nurture will bring the first readings of requests for membership from Irene McReynolds and Don Smith.

FGC Annual Gathering

Five adults and three children from Gainesville Meeting attended the annual FGC Gathering held this year in Niagara Falls, NY. Joshua Killingsworth attended a morning workshop centered on the gospel of Matthew. The Bible Study scheduled for the last Sunday in August will be about Matthew. Bonnie Zimmer, Jean Larson, and Bill Mitchell attended a workshop on Contemplative Photography.



shoes

Bronwyn seemed to have a coterie of friends whenever I saw her.

Jen Ambrose attended a workshop on the Power of Enough.

Hoyt was delighted to find lactose-free ice cream. Audrey seemed to dance her way through the Gathering.



kite flying



Grow Gainesville

Grow Gainesville has moved on to a new, larger home which better meets their needs as they grow into a larger organization. For more information on their activities, see their website at <https://growgainesville.wordpress.com>

New from QuakerBooks: The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks about Race

(Review from Friends Journal, March 2017)

National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward takes James Baldwin's 1963 examination of race in America, *The Fire Next Time*, as a jumping off point for this groundbreaking collection of essays and poems about race from the most important voices of her generation and our time.

In light of recent tragedies and widespread protests across the nation, *The Progressive* magazine republished one of its most famous pieces: James Baldwin's 1962 "Letter to My Nephew," which was later published in his landmark book, *The Fire Next Time*. Addressing his fifteen-year-old namesake on the one hundredth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, Baldwin wrote: "You know and I know, that the country is celebrating one hundred years of freedom one hundred years too soon."

Award-winning author Jesmyn Ward knows that Baldwin's words ring as true as ever today. In response, she has gathered short essays, memoir, and a few essential poems to engage the question of race in the United States. And she has turned to some of her generation's most original thinkers and writers to give voice to their concerns.

The Fire This Time is divided into three parts that shine a light on the darkest corners of our history, wrestle with our current predicament, and envision a better future. Of the eighteen pieces, ten were written specifically for this volume.

In the fifty-odd years since Baldwin's essay was published, entire generations have dared everything and made significant progress. But the idea that we are living in the post-Civil Rights era, that we are a "post-racial" society is an inaccurate and harmful reflection of a truth the country must confront. Baldwin's "fire next time" is now upon us, and it needs to be talked about.

Contributors include Carol Anderson, Jericho Brown, Garnette Cadogan, Edwidge Danticat, Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah, Mitchell S. Jackson, Honoree Jeffers, Kima Jones, Kiese Laymon, Daniel Jose Older, Emily Raboteau, Claudia Rankine, Clint Smith, Natasha Trethewey, Wendy S. Walters, Isabel Wilkerson, and Kevin Young.

Author Jesmyn Ward received her MFA from the University of Michigan and was a recipient of a Stegner Fellowship, a John and Renee Grisham Writers Residency, and the Strauss Living Prize. She is currently an associate professor of creative writing at Tulane University and author of the novels *Where the Line Bleeds* and *Salvage the Bones*, which won the 2011 National Book Award. She is also the author of the memoir, *Men We Reaped*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and won the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize and the Media for a Just Society Award. She lives in Mississippi.

A Walk in the Quaker Woods — *Jean Larson, with photographs by Bill Mitchell*

July 15, 2017

Since we were leaving for Germany the next day, we decided to walk in the woods on Saturday morning. I headed out first, and dragged a substantial branch from the drive to the place where we enter the woods and then started picking up trash in the ditch that enters from Shir Shalom. Bill came after and dragged the branch to a useful place for his work slowing the erosion of banks. He joined me and I commented that the level of sand in the ditch seemed lower, and he reminded me that he has been filling sand bags from it in his erosion work. I was finding more broken glass than usual, perhaps uncovered by the removal of sand. The banks along the ditch appeared to be in good shape.

We continued to the creek where we were able to see small fish swimming away. The banks of the creek near the merger with the ditch were in decent shape. The overflow area from the creek where it turns south showed fresh sand carried from above but with the visible flow of water in essentially the same path we have been seeing for some time.

While I was picking up trash, Bill was digging up air potatoes, some with leaves as large as a dessert plate. Most seemed to be along paths indicating they came rolling down the ditch before finding a comfortable home on our property. We apparently did not have enough air potato plants to maintain a population of air potato leaf beetles, but the lacy holes they make were evident on some plants south of our property.

From the place where the creek flows south off our property, we headed north and encountered a large specimen of the thistle family. *Cirsium horridulum* and *Cirsium nuttallii* are the two native species of thistles with broad distribution in Florida. Both have vouchered specimens in Alachua County, and the first grows up to 8 feet tall and the second to 12 feet tall. Since the thistle was taller than me with my arm outstretched, it was probably one or the other of those two species, especially since the only widespread nonnative example in the atlas is at most as tall as I am. The two native species mentioned are larval hosts for the Little Metalmark (*Calephelis virginiensis*) and Painted Lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*) butterflies and provide material for nests of native bees.



Thistle heads (*Cirsium* sp., probably *C. nuttallii*). To right: Jean admires the plant, twice as tall as she is.

Next we headed toward the old meeting for worship in nature area and at the southern edge found a small Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), an exotic invasive we

previously found in this neighborhood but have not seen in the Quaker woods for years. Bill dug it out and we hope it will not return. Then we walked down to the pond area, seeing that quite a lot of sand had been deposited in the two weeks we had been gone. In particular, the yellow stargrass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*) has been getting buried by sand, and Bill decided to come back later in the day to reinforce the measures he is taking to keep them safe.

We completed our walk with a review of the flowers growing near the meetinghouse, including the brown-eyed susans (*Rudbeckia triloba*) in front of the meetinghouse and the flurry of blanket flowers (*Gaillardia pulchella*) that have grown from seeds contributed by Grow Gainesville that are reseeding themselves around the children's yard.

The natural world is a place which encourages us to be at peace. What are you doing to keep the natural world healthy?



From left to right: Brown eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia triloba*) and Tuberous milkweed (*Aesclepias tuberosa*) in front of the meetinghouse, and blanket flowers (*Gaillardia pulchella*) in the children's yard.

Queries for the Eighth Month:

Do we keep to simplicity and moderation in speech, manner of living, and vocation? ■ Do we make time in our day for silence, solitude, spiritual reflection, and the growth of our inner life? ■ Do we remind ourselves each day of our connections with people, other creatures, and all that sustains life? ■ Are we ready to live in the Spirit that heals estrangements that may arise from resentment, nagging fears, and alienation from others? ■ Do we listen to others, even beyond words, being sensitive to their personal needs and difficulties? ■ Are we free from the use of judicial oaths, thus affirming that our statement is only part of our usual integrity of speech? ■ Do we regard our possessions as given to us in trust, and do we part with them freely for the needs of others? ■ Are we careful to keep our jobs and social activities from absorbing time and energy that need to be given to spiritual growth and service to others? ■ Do we stay tender and open to the leadings of the Spirit?

Advices for the Eighth Month:

Use your capabilities and possessions as God's gifts entrusted to us to share with others in humility, courtesy, and affection. ■ Accept and encourage the creativity in others. ■ When we have a choice of employment, choose that which gives the fullest opportunity for the use of our talents in the service of others. ■ Be willing to seek and be faithful to God's will. Remember that we are all one in God.

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