

QUAKER NEWSLETTER

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

www.gainesvillequakers.org

If you see something that's not right, not fair, not just, you must have the courage to stand up, to speak up and find a way to get in the way, to do something about it.

John Lewis

Hold in the Light:Hap Taylor, Anne and Phil Haisley, Connie and Tim Ray, Arnold 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

Every Monday: 5:00 pm. Peaceful witness to support Immigrant Justice at the corner of 23rd st. and 43rd ave. (the Fresh Market)

Sunday, February 4

9:30 am Library committee

9:30 am Meetinghouse committee

1:00 pm Forum: Meditation Techniques to Deepen Worship; Sharing Spiritual Stories

Sunday, February 11

12:45 pm [Meeting for Worship for Business](#)

Tuesday, February 13

12:00 pm Friendly Lunch - at the Meeting House

Sunday, February 18

12:45 pm Earthcare Witness Committee

Wednesday, February 21

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

Sunday, February 25

9:40 am Peace and Social Concerns Committee

1:00 pm [Bible Study](#)



Friends are reminded that it is the responsibility of the entire community to assist with cleaning up the kitchen area after the social hour.

SEYM YEARLY MEETING

Registration is now open for SEYM Yearly Meeting Sessions. March 28 - April 1

Join Friends from all over the SEYM region and beyond for 5 days of retreats, workshops, worship sharing, the Walton Lecture, Yearly Business Meeting, intergenerational games, dance night, a fun Youth program, worship, music, and much more!

All in a peaceful natural setting on Lake Griffin.

The Walton Lecture will be Saturday evening.

For more information go to: <http://seymquakers.org/news-events/yearly-meeting-gathering/>



Photos are from the January 13 Quaker Market dinner, which raised \$400 for Progressa, the Guatamala scholarship fund.

Summary of January 2018 Meeting for Business:

Sandy Lyon has been named to the Nominating Committee by the Ministry and Nurture Committee.

The Hospitality Committee will host a St. Patrick's Dinner in March. The date is to be determined.

The Ministry and Nurture Committee will present at least three forums consisting of some meditation practices to deepen worship and worship sharing around the experience of meeting for worship.

The Ministry and Nurture Committee is planning a meeting retreat in March or April to consider activities and priorities of the meeting. This is a follow-up to the forum that was held in December 2017. A planning committee was formed.

Quaker Organizations

(From time to time we provide information on various Quaker organizations. Some of them are financially supported by the Meeting; others are not. This month we are providing information on the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund.)

Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (bqef.org)

BQEF continues its steady work empowering education, service, and connection between Friends in Bolivia and Friends in North America and Europe.

There are now more than 170 graduates of the BQEF scholarship program. Forty-six university and technical school scholarships were awarded this year, across diverse fields of study. Thirty-six of these students have sponsors, including one sponsor who is a former recipient. This marks the first time that a scholarship program graduate has fully sponsored another student in the program, an exciting milestone in sustainability.

This spring and summer (2017), BQEF staff and volunteers attended several yearly meetings and Quaker gatherings. They had a well-attended interest group at the FGC Gathering, inspiring new enthusiasts, advocates, and travelers to Bolivia.

BQEF is partnering on joint activities with Quaker Bolivia Link, combining efforts to more effectively introduce Friends to the Quaker-led work in Bolivia.

The Student Residence in Sorata is also partnering with other organizations, to deepen and enrich the 22 student residents' learning and opportunities. Two orphaned brothers, one of whom had been acting out and struggling in school, have settled in nicely and are now thriving. Loving care and support from staff and other students have made this uplifting turnaround possible.

News from QuakerBooks.org

QuakerBooks of FGC has relaunched, and is ready for your orders! Through a partnership with a professional fulfillment service, they can now ship orders 5 days a week!

There are three ways to order books and pamphlets for yourself and your Quaker meeting:

- Through the website at QuakerBooks.org
- By phone at 1-800-966-4556*
- By mail at QuakerBooks, c/o PSSC, 46 Development Rd, Fitchburg, MA 01420. Checks for mail orders can be made out to QuakerBooks of FGC.

Please be advised that the 800 number will now be dedicated to receiving orders only.

Therefore, if you need help finding a particular book or want advice on which books might fit your needs, check out the recommendations section of the QuakerBooks website or contact the bookstore associate Audrey Greenhall at audreyg@fgcquaker.org or (215) 561-1700, ext. 3044.

New Quaker Books

Hegemony How-To: A Road Map for Radicals; By Jonathan Matthew Smucker.

Reviewed by Steve Chase , , November 1, 2017

I am about three decades older than Jonathan Matthew Smucker, but I resonate with his description of the life experience of today's millennials, as he notes in his book, *Hegemony How-To*:

We have entered adulthood to find our nation's infrastructure crumbling, our government hijacked by a mix of elitist neoliberals and extremist obstructionists, our economic prospects bleak and likely saddled with mountains of debt, our natural world writhing in crisis, our culture's rampant individualism hollow and unfulfilling, the international scene a hot mess, and our society lacking a collective aspirational horizon.

The choices that we have in this situation, whether we are young or old, can be broken down as follows: (1) turning our backs on basic morality and passively accepting the underlying assumptions of domination, militarism, elitism, and racism in our society; (2) huddling in tiny marginalized radical enclaves denouncing this situation as evil and assuming the role of beautiful and self-righteous losers; or (3) loving our neighbors enough to work with them in effective ways to put forward an alternative vision, build democratic people's organizations, offer real social leadership, and take strategic action as a growing and powerful majoritarian movement that is genuinely populist, ethical, and committed to the common good.

In his book, Smucker fleshes out this third path beyond either "immoral power" or "powerless morality." The core argument running throughout the book is that we are not powerless, we are not alone, and there is a large, latent sea of support in the world for positive social change—even if it is often invisible to us. He opens the book with this insight by telling a story of screwing up his courage as a 17-year-old to make a radical economic justice speech at his high school—a speech he thought would earn him nothing but scorn and isolation. Yet, as he reports in surprise, "What I had not anticipated was the number of students who would resonate with the message and would want to find out more" and who "even wanted to do something about the situation."

Smucker explains the potential of this kind of recruitment in the conclusion of the book:

For every hopeful individual who dives in at the outset, there are many times as many reasonably skeptical sympathizers watching from the sidelines, and not yet convinced that the nascent effort can win; not ready to put the time, energy, and risk into something that is more likely than not to fizzle; or simply not seeing how they might meaningfully plug in to the effort or, all too often, not being provided an appealing opportunity to do so.

Between the beginning and end of the book, Smucker shares many hard-won lessons on how the "initial core of movement participants" can avoid seeing themselves as the whole movement and driving potential movement supporters away through a self-marginalized, hyper moralistic, ultra-radical, insular, and contemptuous approach toward others. The genius of this book is that it helps its readers develop a roadmap for how to inspire, recruit, organize, and mobilize the "unusual suspects" and thus activate "the larger social force that is needed to win the scale of change" we seek.

Against Doom: A Climate Insurgency Manual by Jeremy Brecher

[Reviewed by Steve Chase](#) *Friends Journal*, November 1, 2017

Another book that offers a positive and smart take on the challenges we face is Jeremy Brecher's *Against Doom: A Climate Insurgency Manual*. It also argues that we can work with our neighbors and engage in effective and strategic action—in this case, to limit catastrophic climate change and transition to a just and climate-safe world.

Brecher starts his very first chapter, "This Is What Insurgency Looks Like," by describing a church-based planning meeting for a nonviolent civil resistance action by residents and supporters of a predominantly low-income, African American neighborhood in Albany, N.Y. As Brecher writes, "They were organizing a protest against trains carrying potentially explosive oil—dubbed by the residents 'bomb trains'—that were running through their neighborhood." This action was part of 350.org's May 2016 "Break Free from Fossil Fuels" civil disobedience campaign that involved hundreds of thousands of people on six continents nonviolently interfering with key elements of the fossil fuels industry in their communities in the space of one week.

The Albany action was not an ultra-leftist affair using a "diversity of tactics," which is just a term used by self-righteous "radicals" to market feel-good but unstrategic violence. Instead, the action was populist, well-organized, and very disciplined. As Brecher notes, "Participants agreed 'not to harm people or property;' to be 'dignified in dress, demeanor, and language;' to attend

action training; and to act ‘in accordance with the group’s agreed plan for action.’” Their particular action included 1,500 people marching to the train tracks for a spirited celebration of their democratic right to protect their community from harm. Then 500 of them put their bodies on the line to “illegally” blockade the train tracks so no “bomb trains” would pass through their community—or the communities of others.

I put “illegally” in quotes because the participants did not see themselves as criminals. They saw themselves as the people in their community who were willing to defend the law. As Brecher reports, many climate insurgents “have begun to define themselves—to the movement, the public, and the courts—not as criminals, but as law enforcers trying to protect legal rights and halt governments and corporations from committing the greatest crime in human history.”

This is an important reframing because one of the main barriers keeping many “climate worriers” from becoming bold and creative “climate warriors” is their deep-seated self-images as respectable, law abiding citizens who do not engage in improper behavior. If you are like me, you have probably heard many Quakers say, “I could never take part in civil disobedience or risk arrest.” You may have even said it yourself.

Yet what if this version of being “law abiding” is just an unfaithful, inaccurate, and unhelpful way to look at our situation? What if by not taking part in nonviolent civil resistance and just staying passive—or even staying completely locked into the domesticated and rigged “normal channels” of elections, lobbying, and litigation—we are aiding and abetting government and corporate crimes against humanity, the public trust, and the planet?

I wish I had the space to describe in much more depth Brecher’s thoughtful discussions. He describes his view of the public trust doctrine, his vision of a just transition, and the value of building alternative institutions. He spells out his theory of change for a nonviolent global climate insurgency, and how we can involve more people in extended climate insurgency campaigns and increase their effectiveness. He describes how an organized civil resistance movement can effectively undermine the pillars of support for government and corporate climate criminals over time. This occurs when more and more of us follow Gandhi’s path and collectively “withdraw our acquiescence and cooperation from those who are destroying our planet.”

As a Quaker activist and someone who works for the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, which promotes the study and use of nonviolent civil resistance in social movements, I heartily recommend reading and discussing Brecher’s important new book. Both of these books remind us that there is a world to win and that what we choose to do matters.

Pesticide Information from EarthCare:

The Environmental Working Group uses the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Pesticide Data Program Report to create a pair of annual lists called the **Shopper’s Guide to Pesticides** in Produce: the “dirty dozen” has the most pesticide residue and the “clean fifteen” the least.

Here is the dirty dozen:

Strawberries	Spinach	Nectarines	Apples
Peaches	Grapes	Pears	Cherries
Tomatoes	Sweet Bell Peppers	Potatoes	

Here is the clean fifteen:

Sweet Corn	Avocados	Pineapples	Cabbage
Onions	Frozen Sweet Peas	Asparagus	Mangoes
Eggplant	Honeydew	Kiwifruit	Cantaloupe
Cauliflower	Grapefruit		

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

January 27, 2018

Mona and Walter were the first to arrive for the Greater Invader Raider Rally and they set up a table at the top of the ramp by



the main entrance to the meeting house and were ready to welcome all who came to participate in the city sponsored two hour trash and exotic invasive plant clean-up.

I picked up Joshua at his place prior to getting a bucketful of supplies and signing in at the conveniently close Westside Recreation Center essentially four blocks east at the corner of NW 8th Avenue and NW 38th Street. When I arrived at the meeting property I did not see any buckets to use in the clean-up or trash can in which the results would be taken away, so I went back to the the Westside Recreation Center, heard that they were getting reports of stolen buckets, and that I should collect the trash and exotic invasive plants in the bags provided in the bucket I



picked up earlier. I dashed home to get buckets from Bill's truck and we were set.

Joshua and I headed out the drive, and walked along a path that skirts around the meeting for worship in nature area up to the ditch near the border with Shir Shalom. We crossed the ditch and almost immediately started plucking clusters of berries of the coral ardisia (*Ardisia crenata*). I dug up some of the seedlings and medium size plants, leaving larger plants whose fleshy whorl of roots were more than I could master with my Ho-Me digger. Coral ardisia (named scratchthroat in the Atlas of Florida Plants) is a handsome shrub typically maturing at around three feet high with dark green glossy leaves and bright red berries in the winter. It is native to China and a problem locally because it has many berries and in ideal conditions 90% of the berries sprout according to a study by the University of Florida. Since many berries drop near the plant, this growth habit leads to masses of ardisia plants crowding out all others.



Coral ardisia (Ardisia crenata) plants, showing the berries. This is a good time to go after the plants: the berries make the plantsdd easy to recognize, but are still attached firmly enough that they don't fall off to germinate for next year.

After finishing the patch by the ditch, Joshua and I continued west through the woods and stepped over a wire fence bent over by a small fallen pine tree to enter the yard of one of our northern neighbors. Bill and I had reviewed possible sites on Thursday, this site being his pick, and mine being one near the southeast corner of the property which turned out to be so muddy that I did not want to bring people to it. On Friday, we walked through meeting property to the site and were able to meet the person living there who gave us permission to remove the berries of the coral ardisia plants.

Bill, who was under the weather that day, showed up a bit late, and tackled some of the larger plants but also collected berries. There were many, many shiny red berries to pick.

It was pleasant to hang out with Bill and Joshua and a time to talk about whatever. Joshua helped me understand what the "feed" on facebook is.

We were helping the native plants and animals that live on them by lowering the effective fertility of the ardisia plants in one locality. What have you done lately to care for the earth?

Queries for the Second Month:

Are meetings for business held in the spirit of meetings for worship? ■ In decision-making, do we promote a spirit of love, understanding, and patience as we seek unity on an appropriate course of action? ■ Do we keep our remarks simple and speak only as the Spirit leads? ■ Are we able to unite in good grace with the sense of the meeting when our personal desires tend in another direction? ■ Do we maintain respect for others, however strongly our opinions may differ? ■ Are meetings for business seen as positive opportunities for testing and practicing our spiritual life?

Advices for the Second Month:

As members, attend the business meetings and extend our support to the meeting's affairs so that the burden will not rest upon a few. ■ In meetings for business and in all duties connected with them, seek the leadings of the Light. ■ Avoid undue persistence. As we release our attachment to our ideas, the Light may reveal solutions none of us has considered. ■ Be willing to admit the possibility of being in error. Remember that the foundation of a lasting decision lies in the search for unity—that is, a corporate seeking of the Light in an atmosphere of love, trust, and mutual

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