

# QUAKER NEWSLETTER

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

[www.gainesvillequakers.org](http://www.gainesvillequakers.org)

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*Friends come back from their worship with a new sense of ordination, but not the ordination of human hands. Something has happened in the stillness that makes the heart more tender, more sensitive, more shocked by evil, more dedicated to ideals of life, and more eager to push back the skirts of darkness and to widen the area of light and love.*

*Rufus Jones, 1863-1948*

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

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**Calendar of Events:** (online at [www.gainesvillequakers.org](http://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 Witness at Corner of 23rd Ave and 43rd St to Support Immigrant Justice

**Sunday, June 3**

9:30 am Library committee

9:30 am Meetinghouse committee

**Wednesday, June 6**

5:30 pm Spiritual Explorations, followed by a simple meal and Worship

**Sunday, June 10**

12:45 pm Meeting for Worship for Business

**Tuesday, June 12**

12:00 pm Friendly Lunch - at the Meeting House

**Wednesday, June 13**

5:30 pm Spiritual Explorations, followed by a simple meal and Worship

**Friday thru Sunday, June 15-17**

5pm Sunday, 9-5 Saturday, and 1-5 Sunday: Advanced AVP workshop

**Sunday, June 17**

12:45 pm Earthcare Witness Committee

**Wednesday, June 20**

Deadline for newsletter items. Email to Bonnie Zimmer at [gfquakernews@gmail.com](mailto:gfquakernews@gmail.com)

5:30 pm Spiritual Explorations, followed by a simple meal and Worship

**Sunday, June 24**

9:40 am Peace and Social Concerns Committee

1:00 pm Biblical and Spiritual Explorations

**Wednesday, June 27**

5:30 pm Spiritual Explorations, followed by a simple meal and Worship

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

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**From the Library Committee:**

The library committee recommends the following two books:

- **A Golden String** by Daisy Newman
- **Living in Dark Times** by Rex Ambler

**Notes From the Field by Beverly Ward (SEYM Field Secretary for EarthCare)**

2 Fifth 2018

Fourth Month was quite busy, beginning with the close of the SEYM 2018 Gathering on Firstday, 1 Fourth Month. Fourth Month also was full of queries. The SEYM Gathering began with the First Retreat query, "What are the things and/or experiences that fundamentally move us spiritually to care for the Earth?" (Friends responses will contribute to an SEYM faith statement on care for the natural world. Clearwater, Palm Beach, and Tallahassee Monthly Meetings also worked with the SEYM Queries & Advices Care of the Natural World, <http://seymquakers.org/resources/queries-advices/>, during their retreats this year.)

During the annual meeting of the African Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation, 12 through 14 Fourth Month 2018, Friends considered two sets of focus questions in worship sharing as part of a year-long strategic planning process. The sets of questions were:

**Organizational Identity and Mission**

- How can we best articulate who we are and our core mission?
- What is our most compelling vision for the world we seek?
- What elements of AFSC's identity are fundamental and should not be let go?

**Programmatic Directions**

The AFSC has chosen to describe and group its work within the following areas: Building Peace, Immigrant and Migrant Rights / Human Migration and Mobility, Healing Justice (Mass incarceration/Addressing Prisons), Ending Discrimination/Inclusive Communities, and Economic Justice

- Are these the right areas for our work for the next ten or more years?
- Is there something vital that is missing—what new realities do we need to address?
- Is there work that is no longer as essential?
- Is there a way that we should focus and re-orient our work to meet the challenges of the current moment?

Of course, I am particularly concerned that the relationship between Earthcare and AFSC's strategic plan is clear. Building Peace, Human Migration and Mobility, Economic Justice—all are impacted by climate disruption.

Each morning of the Spring steering committee meeting of Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), 20 through 22 Fourth Month 2018 opened with worship sharing.

**Sixthday**

- What experiences and inspirations in your life led you to become involved in care for the Earth?
- What concerns and/or Leadings are moving you to action/Witness now?
- Have you been faithful to your Leadings?

**Seventhday**

- When you made the transition from youth to adulthood, how did your life change?
- What choices did you make?
- Looking back now, how well have those choices served you?

**Firstday**

- Is QEW helping you to move forward with your Earthcare-related leadings? If so, how? If not, how?

- What are your needs for support now and in the future for your and our QEW Earthcare-related leadings?
- How can QEW give that support to our testimony of care for the Earth?

The reflection on these queries over the past month or so has been very meaningful to me. I particularly appreciated beginning each day with worship sharing with Friends at the QEW steering committee meeting. I hope that these will be of use to you.

### From the Beltram Peace Center

A Muslim–Christian Discussion Group begins on July 14, reading and discussing the book *Claiming Earth as Common Ground* by Andrea Cohen-Kiener.

### Dismantling Rascism Group

This begins again on September 12, discussing two movies based on plays by August Wilson. The plays are available in the library. The movies will be viewed the last two Wednesdays in August:

August 22: The Piano Lesson

August 29: Fences

Report from the Earthcare Committee

On May 20, 2018 a dozen or so of us met with SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare Beverly Ward to discern leadings related to earth care by individuals and potentially for Gainesville Meeting and/or its Earthcare Committee to support. After opening worship, we shared reading of the SEYM November queries which focus on Care of the Natural World, followed with a brainstorming session on Earthcare concerns, sharing of ways to mitigate, minimize, or otherwise address these concerns, and sharing knowledge of potential opportunities to work collectively and/or collaboratively with a local partner. Susan Cary shared her experience volunteering at Caring and Sharing Learning School, and a potential partnership to work on one or more aspects of the vision of 3rd and 4th grade Math and Science Teacher Clyde Hall of (a) composing, (b) recycling, (c) food production through raised bed gardening and greenhouses, and (d) a pollinator garden. Those attending encouraged Susan Cary to continue the process of talking with key persons for Caring and Sharing about their interest in working together, as we do the same.

### A Walk in the Quaker Woods

*Jean Larson, with photographs by Bill Mitchell*

May 21, 2018

At home Bill and I decided to take a walk in the woods. He arrived first and I found him in the last parking bay north of the drive with his chain saw out cutting up a branch which had fallen off of a water oak (*Quercus nigra*). Water oaks are associated with wetlands, but are able to grow in a wide variety of situations. They may live only 60 to 80 years compared to the southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) may live centuries. To clear the drive, I dragged some of the pieces he cut into the woods.

Once the drive was reasonably clear we headed into the woods, stopping at the meeting for worship in nature area to lift some branches that had fallen on one bench and add the to the tangles Bill is building to slow the flow of water during the storms we have been having. The idea is to soften the terrain changing effects of overflowing water from the ditch, and to maintain the path that follows the route of an old road to the creek.

We walked up to the place where the ditch enters meeting property and were pleased to see the plants we had planted there are doing well under this very wet period with rains every day now for a few weeks. The water flowing down the ditch was deep enough, that we did not walk down it, going instead to the creek by the path of the old road.

We checked on the plants Bill has installed there including two



Saint andrews cross (*Hypericum hypericoides*),, one of two planted near the creek near where the path ends.

examples of St. Andrew's cross (*Hypericum hypericoides*), a small shrub with four petal flowers.

We used to have a specimen near the grandfather oak tree, but the shrub died after its habitat changed when hurricanes Jeanne or Francis took down a neighboring tree. We hope these plants like their new home.

We wandered down and around, no longer able to skirt the edge of the creek, to reach the area where the creek heads off our property. We saw fish in the deeper spot along the way, including one that was about three inches long. And when we reach the point where the water flows south, we saw that the water was so high that some was going southeast and some was heading north and then east.

The light was softening as we headed north



Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), seen near the creek.

**Ecotip:** Gainesville is striving to make recycling more comprehensive and a recent addition to the list of recyclables is "clean pizza boxes". The operative work is clean, so if only the bottom on your pizza box is greasy or dirty in some other way, rip the box apart and put the bottom in the trash and recycle the top. *Clean* is key here: a dirty or odd color item can make a processed mass of plastic unsalable, and it will end in a landfill.

Reducing your use of plastic is the best way for you to low the burden on the earth of your plastic usage. Consider making a pledge not to use a form of single use plastic for the month of July. Plastic straws and plastic coffee stirrers are too small to be recycled by ordinary means. I am pledging not to use commercial bottled water in single use plastic bottles. -- Jean L

through the woods noting traces where the water had flowed overland and skirted the pond area in the slope from the split rail fence to the pond and the slope from the western berm of the front retention pond.

On the way we spotted two flowers on the



Reflections in the water in the back retention basin.

yellow star grass (*Hypoxis curtissii*), and Bill pulled the exotic invasive chinaberry sapling I spotted.

We took the continued survival of the yellow stargrass to be a sign that Bill's work on shoring up the banks of the ditch and inserting tangle berms across the paths taken by water overflowing the creek and ditch to carry sand downhill is slowing the deposition of sand that has shrunk the spread of this lovely small flower. The removal of the chinaberry tree which contains terpenoids meliatoxin and toosendanin which are toxic to humans and other animals makes the Quaker Woods a safer place to be. What are you doing to make the world around you a better place to be



Fungi on a dead standing tree.



**Unwanted plant of the Month:  
Skunk Vine**

Skunk vine (*Phaederia foetida*) is named for its smell when it is crushed, or its root is exposed, or if there's just too much of it. Like air potato, it can shade out and kill understory plants and even trees. We've been fighting it .since almost the beginning, and we may never get rid of it since it runs all through the back lawn at B'nai Brith.

To recognize it, note that the leaves come in pairs, opposite on the vine. They are not shiny, which distinguishes them from Jessamine and Smilax. It can be confused with the native



crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*), but instead of the opposite simple leaves, it has two opposite leaves, each of which is composed of two leaflets. Also cross vine, unlike skunk vine, has tendrils.

Skunk vine has lovely little flowers. I've only seen them once:: Jean saw them and recognized them, and that's when we realized we had a

problem. It's not clear whether we haven't seen them since because we've kept them from growing that big or they are lurking in the tree tops. I took the picture above from the website [Hawaiian Plants and Tropical Flowers](#).

*Bill Mitchell*

**Queries for the Sixth Month:**

Do we make our home a place where love, peace, happiness, friendship, and refreshment of spirit are found and where the presence of God is experienced? ■ Do all members of our family receive our affection and understanding? ■ Do we take care that responsibilities outside the home do not encroach upon the time and loving attention our family needs? ■ Do we acknowledge and support all relationships and families, whether conventional or not, that are based on love and commitment? ■ Does our family set aside First Day and other times for worship, service, rest, and refreshment of spirit?

**Advices for the Sixth Month:**

Live in love, and learn from one another. Try to live simply. ■ In our family life, encourage reliance upon God's guidance and help for each day's needs. ■ Remember the value of beauty in all its forms. ■ God's gifts are for all to enjoy; learn to use them wisely.

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