Hold in the Light: Hap Taylor, Morrie Trimmer, Anne and Phil Haisley, Gene and Dick Beardsley, Arnold and Amy Von der Porten.

When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks are grown strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure.

Peter Marshall (1902-1949)

Calendar of Events: (online at www.gainesvillequakers.org)
Every Sunday: 11:00 am Meeting for Worship; 11:15 am First Day School
Every Monday: 6 pm Yoga with Gary

Sunday, May 3
9:30 am Library committee
9:30 am Meetinghouse committee
1:00 pm Forum on Outreach and Inclusion

Tuesday, May 5
11:30 am Friendly Lunch - at the Meeting House

Sunday, May 10
12:45 pm Meeting for Worship for Business

Friday, May 15
7:00 pm Film Night at the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, May 17
9:40 am Peace and Social Concerns Committee
12:45 pm Earthcare Witness Committee

Wednesday, May 20
Deadline for newsletter items. Email to Bonnie Zimmer at gfquakernews@gmail.com

Sunday, May 24
1:00 pm Bible Study

The Fundraising 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.

Friday, May 1: 10:00 am Lecture: Quakers, Race and Puerto Rican Politics in the Early 20th Century
The Institute of Learning in Retirement at the Oak Hammock Retirement Community will host a lecture: Quakers, Race and Puerto Rican Politics in the Early 20th Century. The lecture will be presented by Carlos Figueroa, Ph.D, Historian, Politics Department, Ithaca College, NY. Dr. Figueroa is an assistant professor of politics at Ithaca College who conducts research and writes on U.S. Quakers, Race and Politics, among other areas. He is currently working on a book tentatively titled Quakers, Race and Empire: The Politics of Civic Membership in U.S. Insular Policy Rhetoric, 1898 - 1917 that tells the story of the ways in which the Lake Mohonk Conference of Friends of the Indian and other Dependent Peoples (LMC) shaped the political debates and policy controversies concerning the civic status of nonwhite peoples who resided in acquired U.S. insular territories during the early decades of the 20th century. Just recently, he finished a journal article that explores how Quaker political interventions into US Puerto Rico
affairs -- between the Foraker Act (1900) and the Jones Act (1917) – structured insular policy debates over the extension of collective citizenship, and self-government practices in Puerto Rico. He examines various speeches, letters, reports, and other texts produced by members of, and within the aegis of the Quaker founded LMC. He shows how LMC Quakers in their pursuit of liberal egalitarian outcomes accepted the dominant and divisive Christian racialist assumptions of the times and produced some unintended consequences in terms of U.S. Puerto Rico policy development that still resonate today. This lecture is open to the public.

Sunday, May 3: 1:00 pm  Forum on Outreach and Inclusion
The Ad Hoc Committee on Outreach and Inclusion will present a forum on the results of the year-long investigation and seasoning of various ideas of ways that Gainesville Friends Meeting might choose to structure future outreach events either at the Meetinghouse or in the community. There will be ample opportunity for discussion and questions.

Friday May 15:  Film Night  7:00 pm
The film for May is I Came to Testify the moving story of how a group of 16 women who had been imprisoned and raped by Serb-led forces in the Bosnian town of Foca broke history’s great silence – and stepped forward to take the witness stand in an international court of law. Their remarkable courage resulted in a triumphant verdict that led to new international laws about sexual violence in war. A discussion will follow the movie.

If you have DVDs that might be of interest in the future, see Tim Ray.

Report on Local Foods Dinner and Drumming Event
The local foods dinner and drumming event was quite successful, There was a variety of local foods available and a number of individuals from the community participated in the drumming. There were smiles on many faces and several conversations about Quaker beliefs and testimonies. For additional photographs, look on our website at www.gainesvillequakers.org.

Condolences
Mike Howard passed away on April 19 in Port Charlotte, FL. His mother lives at the Village in Gainesville.

New in the Library: The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd
In the early 1830s, Sarah Grimké and her younger sister, Angelina, were the most infamous women in America. They had rebelled so vocally against their family, society, and their religion that they were reviled, pursued, and exiled from their home city of Charleston, South Carolina, under threat of death. Their crime was speaking out in favor of liberty and equality and for African American slaves and women, arguments too radically humanist even for the abolitionists of their time. Their lectures drew crowds of thousands, even (shockingly, then) men, and their most popular pamphlet directly inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Uncle Tom’s Cabin--published 15 years later. These women took many of the first brutal backlashes against feminists and abolitionists, but even their names are barely known now. Sue Monk Kidd became fascinated by these sisters, and the question of what compelled them to risk certain fury and say with the full force of their convictions what others had not (or could not). She discovered that in 1803, when Sarah turned 11, her parents gave her the “human present” of 10-year-old Hetty to be her handmaid, and Sarah taught Hetty to read, an act of rebellion met with punishment so severe that the slave girl died of "an unspecified disease" shortly after her beating. Kidd knew then that
she had to try to bring Hetty back to life (“I would imagine what might have been,” she tells us), and she starts these girls' stories here, both cast in roles they despise. She trades chapters between their voices across decades, imagining the Grimké sisters’ courageous metamorphosis and, perhaps more vitally, she gives Hetty her own life of struggle and transformation. Few characters have ever been so alive to me as Hetty and Sarah. Long after you finish this book, you’ll feel its courageous heart beating inside your own. -- Mari Malcolm  (Review from Amazon Books)

Friendly Lunch
There will be no Friendly lunch the first Tuesdays of July and August due to vacation schedules.

Upcoming: Dates to be Announced: Child Abuse Prevention Program

Friendly, Safe Adults Needed
The Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP) for SEYM needs a large pool of adults who have been trained to be a certified safe and friendly presence for our youth. Adults must be recertified every three years. You do not need to be a child care worker. The greater need is for adults to be present in large enough numbers to provide supervision while other workers lead the programming. The process to become certified is simple, but precise. You will need to fill out a Request to Obtain a Background and SEYM Youth Program References. Both forms are on the SEYM website or you can get them from Sandy Lyon. Once you complete the papers, you mail them to the SEYM. They pay for the background check and contact the references. Once the paperwork has been finalized your name will be sent to the CAPP trainers to let them know that you are eligible to take the training class. The CAPP trainer can then schedule a class either at an SEYM event or at a monthly meeting. Prior to the class you will read the CAPP Manual. It is also on the website and most meetings have a copy you can borrow. The class involves a video presentation and discussion. The discussion is a wonderful time to talk about specific situations or children that may present special risks. For example, the woods at our meeting can be a unique challenge. The class takes about an hour and a half. The trainer verifies that you have taken the class and you are given a paper to sign and return to the SEYM office. While the process may seem cumbersome, it is the best way we know to provide adequate and trained supervision for our youth. Please see Sandy for the forms. Sandy Lyon will be scheduling training sessions in Gainesville. To have an effective outreach program that involves families and children, we need to get as many adults as possible certified.

Epistle From SEYM Annual Gathering
To Friends everywhere:
Loving greetings from the 51st session of Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM). 172 Friends, including 19 youth, gathered at the Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park, Florida, from the first to the fifth day of Fourth Month, 2015. The beautiful campus on the shores of Lake Griffin, under the shading canopy of live oaks, Spanish moss, and palm trees, was an inspiration to our time together. Old friendships were renewed and new friendships made. Our loving community was knit closer by worshiping together, attending to our business, and expanding our horizons in many exceptional workshops. Time to sit together and get to know one another in that which is eternal is a hallmark of our Yearly Meeting sessions.

Over the past several years the youth of our Yearly Meeting have inspired us with their Spirit-led activism. They have supported the Coalition of Immokalee Workers on the Fair Food Campaign,
bringing significant progress toward a living wage for agricultural workers in Florida. They've collaborated with Earth Quaker Action Teams to pressure PNC Bank to cease investing in mountaintop removal mining. Friends at these sessions rejoiced in the news that on March 2nd, 2015, PNC Bank announced its commitment to divest its holdings in mountaintop removal. Our youth's faithful practice of nonviolent protest has opened our minds and hearts to greater possibilities than we had imagined.

During these same years, the SEYM Committee on Earthcare has been helping the Yearly Meeting to season a minute creating the position of Field Secretary for Earthcare for SEYM. Galvanized by the example of our youth, we move forward from approving this minute with faithful expectation of way opening for its staffing and ongoing funding.

SEYM representatives to Friends organizations reminded us of the Spirit-led social justice work being done around the world and in our own Yearly Meeting. We continue to nurture ProNica and to support the Havana (Cuba) Unprogrammed Worship Group with our loving care. We committed our prayerful and financial support to the Friends New Underground Railroad project of Olympia Monthly Meeting of North Pacific Yearly Meeting, providing safe passage to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer Ugandans. We minuted our intention for Yearly Meeting Friends to read and discuss the Pendle Hill pamphlet by Patience Schenck, "Living Our Testimony of Equality: A White Friend's Experience" during the next year as an examination of our own privilege.

Our Walton Lecturer, Nancy Irving, reminded us of the centrality of community to our faith and practice. Her workshops and lecture titled "Creating Space for Community: Both Inside and Out," challenged us to move beyond the societal notion of rugged individualism and practice commitment, willingness, intentionality, and trust in opening the spaces essential to our deeper relationship with Spirit and one another.

Our time together included a balance of laboring to seek clearness and connecting joyfully through conversation, study, worship, and intergenerational play. We concluded our gathering with a sense of what is possible when we remain faithful to the call of Spirit by following our leadings.

From Dick Beardsley:

**On Great Black Wings**

It’s an incongruous sight in an unlikely location -

A pair of black vultures, ungainly birds with unsavory reputations as specters of death and scavengers of road kill, attentively watching over their brood of two beige chicks on a bed of wood chips in a secluded
corner of a rehab hospital patio.

What a display of tenderness and pride as the parents take turns folding their great wings over their restless offspring and carefully tuck, groom and feed them with pincer-like beaks.

Patients, caregivers and visitors alike are drawn to this nurturing spectacle and reverently pause to observe this new family in residence.

It’s as if God swept down on great black wings to bring hope and new life.
4/10/15

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

Late April, 2015

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Spring Flowers — Clockwise from right: Dune Sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*), bee on Sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), Twin Flower (*Dyschoriste humistrata*), Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), Firewheel (*Gaillardia pulchella*), Coral bean (*Erythrina herbacea*).
Advises for the Fifth Month:

Seek for ourselves and for our children the full development of God’s gifts, which is true education. • Realize that education should continue throughout life and that all should share its opportunities and privileges. Make time for regular personal prayer and worship and for reading the Bible, Friends literature, Faith and Practice, the queries and advices, and other sources of spiritual value. • Seek truth together in our families and among Friends in shared worship and discussion. • Teach by being teachable. Be open to new ideas and approaches. • Reach out to that of God in everyone, and endeavor to live out the testimonies of Friends in all the expected and unexpected circumstances of daily life.

Queries for the Fifth Month:

Do we share our deepest beliefs and values with each other and with our children, while leaving them free to develop as the Spirit may lead them? • Does the meeting give the children loving care and promote their spiritual life through religious education and other activities? • Do we encourage our children’s participation in the meeting’s work and cultivate their desire for service to others? • How do we educate our members and attenders about the Bible (especially the teachings of Jesus), other spiritual literature, and the history, principles, and practices of Friends?

Gainesville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
702 NW 38th Street
Gainesville, FL 32607

Longleaf Pines (Pinus palustris) near 38th Street. The older one at the left is shooting up; the other, planted last year, is still in the early grass stage.