

HADDONFIELD MONTHLY MEETING RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 55, No. 1 ~ September, 2008

Meeting for worship

10 am Sunday ~ 9:15 am Wednesday



From Worship and Ministry

The Road Ahead

As the Meeting continues its commitment to the Yearly Meeting's Deepening and Strengthening Program, we plan to use our newsletter to help members and attenders gain an understanding of changes we can make - individually and as a Meeting - and practices we can adopt to spiritually strengthen Haddonfield Monthly Meeting.

One important concept to keep in mind is kindling, whereby one or two people arrive early and settle in to worship. There must be some kindled hearts when the meeting begins. In them, and from them, begins the work of worship.

"The spiritual devotion of a few persons, silently deep in active adoration, is needed to kindle the rest, to help those others who enter the service with tangled, harried, distraught thoughts to be melted and quieted and released and made pliant, ready for the work of God and His Real Presence," Quaker educator T.R. Kelly wrote.

This practice has already begun this summer at meeting for worship. A small group of individuals have been asked to carry out this idea, and thankfully, they have accepted.

Attending meeting for worship regularly and making every effort to be on time are two basic advices from *Faith and Practice* to help us grow stronger individually and as a meeting.

Among Friends

Over the summer, the Haddonfield Monthly Meeting community lost three longtime members with the deaths of Mabel Hinds, Flora McKinney and S.E. Watson.

A memorial service for Flora was held on Aug. 23, with scores of Haddonfield Monthly Meeting members and attenders in attendance, along with her family.

Born Flora Sellens in September 1917, Flora's father died when she was only five. Her mother managed to raise her three children in the town of Haviland, Kansas. Flora was a cheerleader in High School, exhibiting early on a measure of enthusiasm that she carried throughout life.

She met Howard McKinney when he was attending the local Bible College. They were married in 1941. They first settled in Connecticut, where Howard attended Hartford Theological Seminary. As Howard worked for the AFSC and for governmental programs in civil rights and conflict resolution, the couple and their four children moved around, mostly in the Midwest. Flora organized several Friends Meetings into existence and helped establish a model UN for West Virginia high school students. She led a drive to collect clothing donations at West Virginia colleges and then organized sewing circles at her Friends Meeting to mend the items, which were then dispersed around the world by AFSC. She helped with bookkeeping for the Des Moines office of the AFSC. Flora was always thinking of how to make things better, how to

get people connected, how to make new people feel welcome. She will be missed. She died on Aug. 13 at Medford Leas. Her ashes were interred in the Memorial Garden in the HMM Graveyard.

Donations in Flora's memory should be made to Ramallah Friends School and mailed to: Global Ministries, Friends United Meeting, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374-1980.

Memorial services also will be held at Haddonfield Monthly Meeting at 11 a.m. on Sept. 6 for S.E. Watson, who was a lifelong member of the Society of Friends, and on Sept. 13 for Mabel Hinds, a long time member of the Haddonfield Meeting, who died in July in Bradenton, Florida.

Mabel's son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Laura, were at her side. He and his wife have devoted many months to Mabel's care and well being when she lived in Florida.

Mabel was a learning consultant for Mt. Laurel Schools and a private reading tutor. She was quite proud of her work as School Committee Clerk for the HFS School.

She sojourned to Manasquan Friends Meeting in summer months as she lived at the NJ Shore. The meeting asked members to write a bit of advice or experiences for the Young Friends. Mabel wrote: "My advice to young Quakers today is to learn about other methods of worship. My greatest realization was/is that there can be no intermediary between me and God- no person, group or event. The Golden Rule needs no ceremony or title, rather self-awareness, self-responsibility and self action." So many times Mabel would say "Thank God I am a Quaker!" She loved the independence Quakerism allowed her.

Every one is welcome to attend. A reception will follow immediately in the meeting house.

Connie Brookes has been elected to the Governing Board of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility. ICCR is an association of 275 faith-based institutional investors, including religious communities, foundations, hospitals, economic development funds and

colleges. ICCR and its members press companies to be socially responsible by sponsoring shareholder resolutions on social and environmental issues. Friends Fiduciary Corporation, of which Connie is the Executive Director, is an ICCR member. To learn more about ICCR, visit www.iccr.org.

Maureen Brookes had her second article published in the July issue of Friends Journal ("Taking the Peace Testimony to Washington", page 22). She recently completed her two-year internship at Friends Committee on National Legislation. After a brief stop home, Maureen plans to travel in South America this fall.



Upcoming Events

Sept. 20 - Square Dance - At Plymouth Friends. The dance will start at 6:30 pm at the Steinbright Building on the Plymouth Meeting property at 2150 Butler Pike. For more information, call (215) 368-1096.

Sept. 22 - Peace Prayer's Gathering - Friends are invited to the Haddonfield Meetinghouse from 7-8:30 p.m. to join in a meditation for world peace. We will focus on government: on the individuals who lead and on the citizens who allow or are forced to endure. A few minutes of discussing how to focus and to project positive images will be followed by a forty-five minute meditation. There will be a short break for sharing and then a final meditation. Friends and friends of Friends are welcome! Sponsored by Faith and Ministry. For more information e-mail PeacePartners@verizon.net or call 856-287-9472.

Sept. 26-28 - Alternatives to Violence Workshops sponsored by Fairhill Friends Ministry, a Quaker ministry of presence in North Philadelphia, will begin with basic sessions on these dates in September. Intermediate -level workshops will be held Nov. 7-9. The workshops will take place at Friendship House/Casa Amistad. For more information, contact Jorge Arauz at (215) 421-5811 or at cityquake@aol.com

Oct. 3-5 Tri-Quarter Gathering - It is not too late

to register for the gathering at Camp Ockanickon in Medford. The family-oriented event will include workshops, canoeing, hayrides, a bonfire, worship and more for Friends of all ages. For information on accommodations and fees, contact registrar Cindy Cox Crispin at (856) 478-4093 or email georgeacrispin@aol.com

Oct. 10-12 - Young Adult Friends Retreat - This weekend long retreat will be held at Burlington Meeting House and Conference Center in Burlington for PYM Young Adult Friends (ages 18 to 35). The retreat will conclude with the annual Woolman lecture at 3 pm on Oct. 12, when participants will join with other Friends. For more information on the retreat, visit www.pym.org/education/yaf or contact Sadie Forsythe, (215) 241-7075 or at sadief@pym.org



Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Meeting for Worship for Business

June 8

The meeting began with a period of worship.

The Clerk read extract 201 on Concerns, Leadings, Testimonies from p. 147 of Faith & Practice.

Drew Biehl reported for Care Committee and recommended that the Meeting accept Carol Overton's request for membership. Drew requested that the Meeting waive the standard hold over month and welcome Carol into membership immediately. The Meeting approved Carol's request and welcomed her warmly. Deedy Roberts, John Donch Judy Barnes will visit with Carol in the coming weeks.

The Clerk announced that he had received a request from the Haddonfield Council of Churches that HFM host the annual "World Day of Prayer" on March 6, 2009. The churches of Haddonfield rotate each year; next year is the Meeting's turn. Linda Lotz and Judy Barnes volunteered to organize the event and to ensure that representatives of the Meeting will be present.

They will be the contact persons for the Council of Churches for this event.

Pam Perry presented the annual budget as attached. Highlights include:

School tuition expenses are down; Expected property expenses are up; PYM and Quarterly Meeting donations are increased; Sharing of expenses with the School is being worked out in the interim until separate incorporation is completed.

Kitty Mizuno presented the annual report for Religious Education Committee, as attached. Kitty also presented a report on the five part series of presentations, given Jan. thru March this year by the Religious Education Committee and the Ad Hoc Group on Racial Justice and Equality, a sub-committee of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Included were recommendations for future Haddonfield Monthly Meeting activities relating to Racial Justice.

The Reports were accepted with thanks to Kitty and the committees involved. Additionally, a draft of a minute on what our Meeting's response to issues of racial justice and equality should be was presented for future consideration.

Lou Tomassetti gave a report for Property Committee on the air quality investigations in the classrooms and other parts of the Meeting House.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne R. Heizer, Recording Clerk

Note: These are excerpts for publication from the June Minutes. I have omitted some dated items that are no longer of general interest. As usual, full Minutes are available to Members and regular Attenders.

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Meeting for Worship for Business Aug. 10

24 Friends were in attendance.

The meeting began with a period of worship.

There was no reading during worship.

The meeting began with a brief discussion of the

Clerk's current performance, how well the Clerk is meeting the expectations of the Meeting and what areas the Clerk may be more mindful of to enhance his role within the Meeting. There was general agreement among Friends that Drew is a fine Clerk - that we appreciate his guidance and decisiveness and his caring approach to the resolution of difficult situations. We were pleased to hear him renew his promise to complete the whole six years of his term of office

Kitty Mizuno and Linda Lotz reported for the Religious Education Committee on the planned follow-up on last year's adult first day school programs on racial justice. In past years, there were many series about racial equality and political justice. The Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice and Equality proposed the series of presentations to the Religious Education Committee and did most of the planning. The two committees worked together to carry out the program plans. This year, Religious Ed Committee would like to build on these topics and discuss the history of this Meeting.

Kitty addressed a preliminary question to Friends at today's Meeting for Business: "How is your committee addressing these issues?" Two Friends said "Not at all." Ceil McFadden said that they had not been on Care Committee's agenda but that she would bring it up at a future meeting. Kitty and Linda also made some suggestions for individual and Meeting outreach and self-education.

The Meeting approved that the Ad Hoc Group on Racial Justice and Equality, a sub-committee of Peace and Social Concerns Committee, will send a letter of explanation and some queries to committees to help them reflect on how they might increase awareness, within the committee and within the Meeting, of issues of racial justice and equality.

After the committees reply to the queries, the Ad Hoc Comm will compose a minute on racial justice to be presented at a Meeting for Worship for Business sometime before the end of 2008. A draft of the Minute will be published in the Newsletter.

Also approved was an individual survey on

Racial Justice and Equality to be sent by the Ad Hoc Group to the Meeting Membership. The purpose of this would be to have Friends share ways in which they are involved with race issues in their daily lives.

Pending questions before the meeting:

- The Haddonfield Historical Society (not part of Haddonfield Meeting) would like a copy of Haddonfield Meeting's historical records, now being archived at Haverford College.

- The Ad Hoc Group would like to make a request to the FBI, under the Freedom of Information Act, to see any and all records they have accumulated on us - both on the Meeting and on individual Members of the Meeting.

- Linda would like to request an independent report from someone she has met who has access to public records of individuals who were spied upon by the FBI.

A Friend in attendance expressed some reservations about misplaced energies.

The Ad Hoc Group on Racial Justice and Equality applied to PYM for a membership grant for \$400.00 to assist them in implementing this series of FDS programs. The Committee would like to send \$50.00 each to John Woolman House and the Peter Mott House.

Friends approved.

Connie Brookes reported for the expanded Ad Hoc Committee for Separate Incorporation of the School. The lease and license agreements are now complete and were sent to the school for proper signatures. Next, the Clerk of Meeting, the Treasurer, the Clerk of School Committee and school representatives will meet to review and approve the property agreement, coming back to the Meeting concerning any matters that are in question. The Committee expects everything to be resolved in September.

John Donch presented the annual Treasurer's report, as attached. The meeting approved the report with gratitude for the work John has done over the last year.

John reminded us that there has been no audit since he took office (at least). It was suggested

and approved that we will ask Tait Weiler, who audits the School's accounts, to do the Meeting accounts.

Lou Tomasetti reported for Property Committee. The Summer Art Program has been canceled.

During the last Meeting for Worship for Business, Karin Sanwald expressed a concern that Haddonfield Monthly Meeting had not offered a financial gift to Mt. Pisgah Church after its damage by fire. Pam Perry had said that Finance Committee had not followed up on it because there was a strong concern that Mt. Pisgah Church is not welcoming to those living alternative life-styles and the Meeting should, therefore, not support this organization. The concern was on the August Agenda, but was held over until September to encourage those Friends with strong feelings on the issue to attend and participate.

Meeting for worship for Business closed with a period of silent worship.

Friends and regular Attenders may request copies of the complete minutes from the Recording Clerk at Joanne@synchcorp.com or (856) 429-9186.



Residential Yearly Meeting

Deedy Roberts reported that the Residential Yearly Meeting outlined a series of goals for PYM and the Interim Meeting that include a recommendation that the clerk of Yearly Meeting and the General Secretary will work more closely together, that there will be term limits to enliven the community. In addition, the Governance Project Group offered the following recommendations:

1. PYM and Interim Meeting have one clerk
2. The Clerk of PYM, alternate clerks and the General Secretary constitute the "Agenda Committee".....
3. A new small committee be named to evaluate the performance of the General Secretary on an annual basis.
4. PYM provide for leadership training.....

5. A body of elders (or similar group) contributes as a prayerful presence at all sessions holding the meeting in the Light, supporting the clerks, the General Secretary, and the participants in following the leadings of the Spirit; gently reminding us of good order; and intervening to clarify issues when difficulties arise.

6. The General Secretary and the Clerk of PYM work closely together.

7. A reassessment of yearly meeting communication methods.

8. Job descriptions should be created for those called to service.

9. Term limits should be established for appointees to Interim Meeting. Those appointed would be considered appointees to Yearly Meeting sessions as well.

One of our senior and respected members dissented from the list, because he felt someone should say that it was overly ambitious. The lists, with his dissent, were accepted in their entirety.

A Fellowship Request

Tony Prete and his wife Trish are now sojourning at Haddonfield monthly meeting, rather than attending their home meeting, Central Philadelphia. One reason is Tony's recent loss of the use of his feet and hands because of a rare genetic disease called familial amyloidosis. Tony needs a supporter of the faith community, and sees that the possibility in Haddonfield meeting. He asks that meeting members stop over from time to time just for conversation or to be available for something he cannot do - i.e., pick up a piece of paper. Thus he is quite confined, both by location and disability, and hopes that members of Haddonfield monthly meeting can provide some minimal Quakerly support, mainly just brief visits.

He lives near the Haddonfield-Westmont boundary. He can be reached (856) 428-1203 or at tonyprete@Verizon.net. No need to bring anything and stays of 1-2 hours are fine. Nor is there a need for conversation; availability is the main purpose. That leaves Trish some time when

she does not have to be "on call," but can rest or relax or go out.

If you would like to talk, Tony is always eager to discuss matters pertaining to the Bible (you may recall the Adult First-Day School classes he has given here in Haddonfield a few times). Less serious topics are also welcome; he just needs to be in touch with people who share his faith commitment. In fact, it is the warmth and friendliness of Haddonfield meeting, along with its physical proximity to his home that inspired his hope to find a community here, which he could not manage to do at Central Philadelphia.

Religious Education

The Religious Education Committee would like to express our deepest gratitude to Flora McKinney for the invaluable guidance that she provided for us both by her example as head of Religious Education in the Meeting for many years, and for her specific advice offered to us when we asked for it. When we asked her in June for advice in planning for the coming year, she told us that she always tried to keep in mind ways to draw in people of all ages who do not regularly come to First Day School. We will try to do that. Flora will be sorely missed by the whole Meeting.

Our committee has been working hard through the summer to plan First Day School programs for members and attenders of all ages. The following people have kindly volunteered to teach in the children and young people's programs this year: David Gallivan (High School) Ty and Helena Drago (Middle School), Sue McDevitt, upper elementary, (Inspira Williams, Tanya Hogan, Meg Patterson, Nancy Engle, (Youngest group). We are hoping to divide this younger group into two groups so that there is not such a wide age range. We are hoping that others will come forward to join Mary Noland and Deedy Roberts to help out at least once a month. Inspira and Tanya have been working on a children's first day school curriculum to which all teachers would be able to refer so that volunteers will have an easier time planning classes and the children will have

a unified program to look forward to each week. Inspira and Kitty were able to attend a helpful First Day School Curriculum Fair at the PYM library in August.

Care Committee, Children's Inclusion Committee, and Religious Education Committee will be meeting soon to discuss implementation of the Child Safety/Sexual Misconduct policies and procedures that have been in place over the past few years.

This year we are looking forward to closer coordination among the youth group and First Day School classes for children, young people and adults. One thing we are planning to do again this year is plan a number of intergenerational programs. We are hoping that the first one might be an intergenerational trip to the John Woolman Memorial in Mount Holly, probably on a Sunday in late September. Please stay tuned.

We are also planning a variety of different programs for Adult First Day School. We are using the results of the questionnaire on the classes in the '07 -'08 year to guide us in our planning. One major focus will be classes planned by the people on the Deepening and Strengthening Committee and by Worship and Ministry. We welcome having other committees propose class sessions. Please let us know what your committee might like to do as soon as possible.

The opening First Day School classes for all ages will be on Sept. 21: Pot Luck Sunday. We hope to see everyone there!



A Poem by Harold Heritage

The Sound

Walking at dusk, only nature abounds.
The sound of insects and others unseen
Out of the depth; feeling a vibration,
The sound of truth and eternity.
Breaking the barrier of the Earthbound.