



HADDONFIELD MONTHLY MEETING RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 56, No. 1 ~ September, 2009

Meeting for worship

10 am Sunday ~ 9:15 am Wednesday

Spiritual Formation Group Is Coming to Haddonfield!

Do you seek a deeper spiritual experience?

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting offers a program for members and attenders who make a commitment to form a nurturing spiritual community that will meet to support each other on their spiritual journeys, to discern God's leadings, and to recognize and support their gifts and ministries.

At the request of Haddonfield Monthly Meeting, PYM's spiritual formation team will offer their program to us here this year.

This is a nine-month program involving two weekend gatherings and one single day retreat. Each Spiritual Formation Group in worshipful process and good order selects a set of devotional books to read during the coming nine-month cycle. Each group schedules monthly meetings to discuss the impact the books have had on nurturing the spiritual life and that of the community.

The weekend gatherings will be held at our Meeting House, the first on Nov. 6-8. This program enriches your individual spirituality, gently deepens your understanding that we are all "members one of another" and helps you discover gifts present in yourself and in others. To experience it as a community is a special opportunity indeed!

Past participants have said the following things about this program: "My life has become prayer without ceasing during my daytimes," and "Spiritual Formation has provided a place where new Friends can go deeper into Quaker spirituality. It has guaranteed that newcomers at our meeting will stick around. Several have applied for membership as a result of this program."

Pick up a flyer (available in the foyer) or learn more about the program at First Day School on Sept. 20.

This project is being sponsored by the Care and Worship & Ministry committees.



Notes On the Newsletter

You may already have noticed a change in the order and organization of the newsletter. Starting with this issue, there is a new emphasis on placing news and time-sensitive announcements on the first page. Spiritual reflections from the Worship and Ministry Committee and others still have a home in the newsletter, but this content will appear deeper in these pages, ensuring that announcements and news receive greater prominence than they have in the recent past. Coincidentally, we do not happen to have an article from Worship and Ministry this month, but we will in October.

Secondly, some of you may not be aware that as I begin my third year as editor of the newsletter, I am eager to find a partner who will share the task of producing this publication for half of the year. This has been a wonderful job, but I look forward to producing the newsletter for five months out of the year rather than 10.

The position does not require a great deal of editorial skill, but it does require some facility with creating and modifying documents using Microsoft Word. I would like to begin training my co-editor this fall so that they will be able to begin producing the newsletter in February.

Please contact me if you are interested in pursuing this opportunity.

~ Sarah Greenblatt

Upcoming Events

Sept. 3 - Auction of Redman Engle Family Books - A collection of historic Quaker books will be sold in an auction handled by Alderfer Auction in Hatfield, Pa. The 9 am auction will include the sale of old Bibles, antique children's books and an early or first edition of a John Woolman journal. For more information, contact Deedy Roberts at deedyroberts@yahoo.com.

Sept. 12 - Eyes Wide Open Exhibit - This powerful anti-war exhibit created by the American Friends Service Committee will be on display on North Park Drive in Cooper River Park (Cherry Hill) from 9:30 am to 5 pm. Volunteers who are willing to assist with the display are asked to contact Karen Lawrence at karenlawrence@verizon.net.

Sept. 12 - Celebrating Green at Friends Center in Philadelphia -- Quaker Gray has gone Green and you are invited to help celebrate the transformation of Friends Center at 15th and Cherry Streets. Come for tours, workshops and refreshments from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. as we appreciate and celebrate our environmental

witness for peace, integrity, equality and simplicity.

Sept. 19 - Keeping the Garden Growing - Final retreat for participants in the Deepening and Strengthening Process. The daylong retreat will be held at Pendle Hill.

Sept. 22 - Peace Prayers' Gathering - Friends are invited to the Haddonfield Meetinghouse to join in a meditation for world peace. The event will run from 7 to 8:30 pm. For more information e-mail PeacePartners@verizon.net or call Judy Barnes at (856) 287-9472.

Sept. 27 - Quaker Earthcare Witness -- "John Woolman's Message for the 21st Century" is an intergenerational program at Gwynedd Meeting, Route 202 and Sumneytown Pike, Gwynedd, PA. Beginning at 10:45 a.m., the program will feature a skit and talk by Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox, staff for Quaker Earthcare Witness in Burlington, Vermont. They present a spiritual perspective on ecological issues of today, such as fair trade and global warming. This First Day School program is preceded by Meeting for Worship at 9:30 a.m. and followed by a pot luck lunch at noon. At 1:30 p.m., Louis and Ruah will talk about their 1,400 mile walking journey from Vancouver, B.C. to San Diego, CA over 6 months in 2008. For further information about their life and work, see www.peaceforearth.org

Oct. 2-4 - Tri-Quarter Gathering of Friends - at Camp Ockanickon in Medford, NJ. This year's theme is "Unveiling the Quaker Stimulus Package: Sharing Our Spiritual Resources." The gathering begins at 4 pm Friday and ends at 4 pm on Sunday.

Those of you who have been there in the past will have wonderful memories of this special time together with family and Friends old and new, participating in a selection of activities for the mind, the spirit, and the body. Gary Smith and Ruth Podolin would be happy to answer

questions about their experiences there.

More information will be posted on the bulletin board and announced in the weeks to come.



Meeting for Worship for Business- June 13

26 Friends were in attendance.

The meeting began with a period of worship.

The Clerk read extract #202 on p. 147 of *Faith & Practice*.

The Clerk reported for Care Committee that Veronica Salaam had requested membership in Haddonfield Meeting. She was visited by Jake McGlaughlin and Drew Biehl for Care Committee. The committee supports Veronica's request that she be accepted as a member. Because there is no Meeting for Worship for Business in July, the Meeting approved waiving the traditional one month wait and approved membership for Veronica immediately. Connie Brookes and John Donch will visit Veronica to welcome her.

Bob Brookes reported that those friends selected to visit with Lois Hinsky to welcome her into membership had done so.

Pam Perry presented the final Meeting Budget, which the meeting approved with gratitude for the time Finance Committee spent completing the task.

John Donch answered questions about the treasurer's quarterly report that was circulated at last month's meeting. The Meeting expressed its thanks for the report.

The Clerk read a "Thank you" letter from Barry Scott, Clerk of Central Philadelphia, Meeting, for our Memorial Service for Lillian Willoughby.

We received a letter from Cecelia Wogan requesting that the Meeting approve a transfer of her membership to Berkeley (CA) Meeting. Friends approved.

The Clerk initiated a discussion on fundraising and Meeting finances. To be continued next month.

Lou Tomassetti presented the annual property committee report. The meeting accepted the report with gratitude.

A few highlights:

- Aside from the obvious reasons, it's important to be conscious of fire and safety hazards; we have annual visits from State officials.
- The back porch roof has been repaired.
- Mike Lyons solved the flooding problem with a French drain.
- The heating problem has been solved and repaired.
- The Meeting House windows are 150 years old; the sills need repair.

Great thanks to Lou and the committee for cleaning the Meeting House and all of its additions.

The joint Committee of Ad Hoc and Property Committees will meet and come back to us in August with a recommendation for better care of the property. Suggestions were 1) to separate the general maintenance of the whole property - inside and out - from the inside cleaning duties and 2) to improve communications.

The annual Peace and Social Concerns report was held until August.

Kitty Mizuno and Linda Lotz presented the annual Religious Education Committee report. The Meeting accepted the report with gratitude.

Dan Tompkins presented the annual School Committee report. The Meeting accepted the report with gratitude to the School Committee.

Some highlights:

- There has been a lot of progress, but there are still lots of very big problems.
- Enrollment is down; therefore, income is down. Non-classroom teachers' hours were cut. There is a new Financial Director, Fred Moriuci.
- The School Committee will change some

because of separate incorporation.

A message from Interim Meeting: PYM has received a levy against Priscilla Adams' taxes, withheld as a war protest. They decided not to pay, so the Government will take the money from the PYM bank account.

The Coalition for Peace and Justice asked for a donation for a booth at the NJEA convention on Nov 5-6. Friends approved a \$100 donation.

Meeting for Worship for Business – Aug. 9

25 Friends were in attendance.

The meeting began with a period of worship.

The Annual report from Peace and Social Concerns was held until 9th Month.

The Clerk initiated a discussion of fund raising as a means to augment the Meeting Budget. An enthusiastic discussion ensued. Suggestions included auctions, a revival of the Coffee House, a dinner at another Friend's home (with appropriate contribution made to the Meeting), donations to specific Meeting projects instead of/in addition to the general budget, a garden sale and promoting more active use of the building by the non-member greater community, As an added benefit, many of these activities are natural community-builders and might come under the auspices of the new Meeting Structure Committee which is being formed to continue and extend the process begun by the PYM "Deepening and Strengthening" project.

In addition to raising much-needed funds for the Meeting, some of these activities might also have the benefit of giving us a more visible presence in the wider community – the Borough of Haddonfield and beyond. To that end, it was also suggested that we install some identifying signage at the corner of Friends Avenue and Lake Street and refresh or replace the sign on the front of the Meeting House.

Carol Overtom volunteered to seek the approval of the Historical Society of Haddonfield and the Borough Zoning Board, the

required Steps 1 and 2 for any new signs in Haddonfield. Pam Anderson, who created the corner garden which would likely be the background for the new sign, will also provide some input.

John Donch presented the Treasurer's annual report.

Jake McGlaughlin requested a Travel Minute for his trip to New Zealand later this month.

Connie Brookes reported on the separate incorporation of the school:

The Ad Hoc Committee on Separate Incorporation has been meeting regularly since December. "As of our last meeting on August 3, we have completed all three major documents, the Lease for the main school property, the License for the School's use of the Meetinghouse and a general Operating Agreement. As we move forward, subcommittees are working on completing and gathering the rest of the documentation required to complete the process. We will meet again as a full group to receive reports from the subcommittees on Sept. 21. Once all documentation is completed, there will be a 'closing' of sorts to complete the transition."

"This work could not have been accomplished without a real commitment to fairness and the best interests of both the School and the Meeting by all those involved."

Connie's report was accepted with great joy and, yes, applause!

Ruth Podolin expressed her appreciation and thanks to the Meeting for responding so well to her distress over the situation affecting the relationship between the Meeting, the School and the School Committee.

It was suggested that we should look on the School/Meeting legal separation not as a "wall", but rather as "building a bridge".

Connie Brookes also reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on care of the Meeting House and grounds. As directed at the June Meeting for Business, the group met to discuss the issue of cleaning the building and to establish the job

description of the custodian. The members of the committee are Kevin Heizer and Lou Tomassetti for Property Committee,

Connie Brookes for the Ad Hoc Committee on Separate Incorporation and Drew Biehl, Clerk of Meeting. Kevin, Lou and Connie met on Aug. 2nd, and Drew was updated on that discussion on Aug. 3rd. They are united in the following recommendation to Meeting:

Given the pay scale of our custodian and the hours we could expect for his salary (20 hours), our recommendation is that the Meeting engage a cleaning service to handle the cleaning of the building. Going forward, Rick would be expected to care for the landscaping and outside upkeep of the grounds, including picking up trash, dropped tree limbs, etc. and repairs and other work assigned by the Property Committee.

If members accept this recommendation, they would also need to approve adding the cost of the cleaning service to the budget. At this time we do not have that exact figure but Property Committee will report back to Meeting once we have it. It is our expectation that we will be using the same cleaning service as the school and that the cost will be prorated between the Meeting and the School. Property Committee is now working with Fred Moriuchi, School Business Manager, on obtaining and reviewing Proposals.

Friends approved the committee's proposals.

For Mary Noland, Bob Brookes offered a report from the Nominating Committee, which recommends that the following Friends be approved for three years of service as follows:

Alternate Representative to Interim Meeting,
Anna Mae Sutterley

Quarterly Meeting Alternate to Assist the Clerk,
Marion Rannels

Friendship Committee, Dotty Kurtz

Religious Education Committee, Donna
Maccherone

All were approved.

Nominating Committee requests that all

committees which have not done so, to please advise Mary Noland as soon as possible of the names of their clerks or co-clerks. Please also write them in on the most recent list of Committee Members as of July 2009 (not including today's nominees) on the Deepening and Strengthening Bulletin Board near the auditorium.

Connie Brookes has accepted a request by Care Committee to serve on Nominating Committee.

Bob Brookes reported on his observations of the plenary sessions at PYM summer session:

- Philadelphia approved continued support of Priscilla Adams' tax refusal.

- There was discussion of a new book on the urgent need to recreate a relationship between people and the natural world. There is a trend toward serious activism.

- The work of the PYM Priorities Planning Standing Committee was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne R. Hoxie Heizer, Recording Clerk

Friends and regular Attenders may request copies of the complete minutes from the Recording Clerk at Joanne@synchcorp.com.



Religious Education

First Day School will resume this fall on Sept. 20.

Details of upcoming First Day School programs will be posted on the bulletin board and in future editions of the newsletter. The Religious Education Committee welcomes suggestions for programs for this year.

The committee will spend the fall reorganizing the children and young people's program. People willing to teach on a regular basis, including one or two Sundays a month, are still needed.

Please contact Linda Lotz at lloetz25@hotmail.com if you are interested in helping or have suggestions for programs.



Hospitality Request

Each year, the Friendship Committee asks that the responsibility for the Sunday morning coffees and the covered dish on the third Sunday of the month be shared amongst the various committees. The schedule is as follows:

September: Worship and Ministry
October: Care Committee
November: Finance Committee
December: Property Committee (No Covered Dish)
January: Children's Inclusion Committee
February: Library Committee
March: Memorial and Graveyard Committee
April: School Committee
May: Peace and Social Concerns Committee



A Poem

The Swan

Did you too see it, drifting, all night, on the black river?

Did you see it in the morning, rising into the silvery air -

An armful of white blossoms,
A perfect commotion of silk and linen as it leaned

into the bondage of its wings; a snowbank, a bank of lilies,

Biting the air with its black beak?

Did you hear it, fluting and whistling

A shrill dark music - like the rain pelting the trees - like a waterfall

Knifing down the black ledges?

And did you see it, finally, just under the clouds

-

A white cross Streaming across the sky, its feet

Like black leaves, its wings Like the stretching light of the river?

And did you feel it, in your heart, how it pertained to everything?

And have you too finally figured out what beauty is for?

And have you changed your life?

~ By Mary Oliver