



## Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

# Newsletter

Meeting for Worship  
10:00 a.m. Sunday  
9:15 a.m. Wednesday

Volume 53 No. 7  
March 2007

### **“Knowing Our Self as a Meeting” Project to Deepen and Strengthen Our Meeting as a Faith Community is Launched**

Our Monthly Meeting is about to embark on an important and exciting initiative called “Knowing Our Self as a Meeting.” Designed and facilitated by PYM’s Center for Deepening and Strengthening Our Meetings, this program has been developed as a result of a concern expressed over the years by many Meetings within PYM: a longing for a deepening of the spiritual life and a strengthening of a sense of community within the Meeting.

Like all faith communities, we are moving through times of change and transition, with each season bringing new blessings and new challenges. This program, which will begin with a Special Called Meeting on Sunday, March 18 at 5 PM, will be a unique opportunity for all of us in the Haddonfield Monthly Meeting community to pause for a time of reflection and seek clarity about actions we can take to strengthen the life of the Meeting. We are pleased to have Arlene Kelly as our program facilitator.

We will begin by asking ourselves probing questions about the life of our Meeting. Is there a richness of experience and spiritual renewal in our worship? What are we doing well as a community? In what areas are we not fulfilling our hopes? How has our Meeting changed over time and how have those changes affected us as a Meeting community? What lies ahead? These questions are just a sample of what the project will invite us to reflect on and discuss. Later this spring, the information gathered will be shared at a two-part retreat, beginning Sunday evening, April 29 and concluding the following Sunday evening, May 6.

It is vital for the success of the program that our entire community embrace and become fully engaged in the process, since it calls for each member and regular attender to take the time to fill out a questionnaire concerning our worship and spiritual growth, community and business. Responses may be as simple as agreeing or disagreeing with a statement, but space is provided for more detailed responses. Names are optional.

After the questionnaires are tabulated and analyzed, Arlene will visit with us at the two-part retreat to discuss the results and plan the next steps. The program also includes a six-month follow-up to determine the effects of the program and discuss what might be helpful in the future.

There is little doubt about the potential benefits for our Meeting if we embrace this effort. One Monthly Meeting that recently completed the program said that it “may be the most significant service PYM offers for Quakerism in America” and other Meetings report being transformed by the process into energetic and joyful spirit-led communities. Please join in this significant moment in the life of our Meeting as we come together and chart a path forward.

*The Deepening and Strengthening Committee —  
Drew Biehl, Bob Brookes, Judy Owens, Gary Smith,  
Jamie Vermaat, Diane Werner*

**Coffee and Hospitality for March**  
Memorial and Graveyard Committee

### **Upcoming Events**

**March 3 — Discerning God’s Voice in Everyday Life**  
8:30 AM – 3 PM, Haverford College. Part of Earlham School of Religion’s *Vitality Among Friends* series.

### **March 10 — An Inconvenient Truth**

6:30 PM in the auditorium. Please bring a dish to share and join us for a covered dish supper and a screening of this acclaimed documentary exploring the causes of global climate change. The movie will be followed by a discussion of what we can do to address this growing problem.

### **March 17 — March on the Pentagon**

Mark the 4th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq and the 40th anniversary of the historic 1967 march on the Pentagon.

### **March 17 — Christian Witness for Peace**

1–4 PM, Maple Shade Congregational Church, United Church of Christ (45 North Forklanding Road) is hosting a prayer service, followed by a procession calling for peace and honoring those who serve and who have served in Iraq.

### **March 17 — Memorial Service and Candlelight Vigil**

6:30 PM, Moorestown Friends Meeting House. March 17 marks the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. Moorestown Friends Meeting is organizing a memorial service and candlelight vigil at the Meeting House. The service will be followed by a candlelight vigil to express the desire for the killing to stop. Refreshments will be served in the Meeting House after the candlelight vigil.

### **March 21 — Peace Prayers Gathering**

7-8:30 PM in the Meeting House. This is the second gathering of a group that meets quarterly to pray for world peace, employing meditative prayer as a tool and taking time to share and to be supportive of each other. In January those present shared what “praying for world peace” means to them. At this session particular emphasis will be placed on the phrase “living in a place of peace.” Sponsored by Worship and Ministry.

### **March 23–25 — Annual Sessions at PYM**

See article on page 4.

### *Looking Ahead*

### **April 15 — Movie Matinee**

12:45 PM in the auditorium. Stay after covered dish to watch *Fly Away Home*, an inspirational movie about a young girl who adopts a flock of geese and teaches them to migrate south. Sponsored by Worship and Ministry.

## **Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Meeting for Worship for Business February 11, 2007**

34 Friends were in attendance. The meeting began with a period of worship. The clerk read Extract #33 by William Charles Braithwaite from *Faith & Practice*.

Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business began with a discussion of limiting the length of the business meeting to 1½ hours and of providing childcare for the time between end of First Day School classes and end of Meeting for Business. The feeling among Friends was that less is better. We will plan on one hour with a maximum of an hour and a half. Child care will be provided for any extra time over one hour.

Tim Hogan reported for School Committee. The meeting between Sharon Dreese, the proposed new Head of Haddonfield Friends School, and teachers, parents and Haddonfield Meeting members went very well. There was written feedback from about 90 people, 98% of which was positive. Sharon has been hired and will begin by July 1st of this year. Sharon comes to us with 15 years of experience in Friends school education, including 2 years at Atlanta Friends as Development Director.

The Clerk read a letter from Bill Morad in support of Haddonfield Friends School. Bill spoke of his gratitude to the school because of the very positive experience his children had there. Bill's letter will be passed on to School Committee for response. Similar letters, received from time to time by the Treasurer, will be forwarded to the Clerk for decision as to appropriate sharing with the Meeting.

Debbie Whiting presented the annual report for the Children's Inclusion Committee. The committee's primary single activity this year, “Simple Gifts,” was well received. Next year, the committee hopes to be able to recruit a few additional “crafty” Friends to set up a table and join the fun.

There has been a change in the organizing of childcare. There are now two sitters who work alternate weeks. Between them, they make sure that care is provided every week for our children. The report was accepted with thanks.

Finance Committee report on our investments with Friends Fiduciary is held over until next month.

The Clerk read a letter from Pat Williams informing the Meeting of her decision to resign from the “Ad Hoc Committee for Separate Incorporation of Haddonfield Friends School and Haddonfield Meeting.” The Meeting was

charged with nominating a new member of this committee. However, School Committee has someone in mind they would like to recommend. Friends approved that the Ad Hoc Committee may make the decision to accept or reject whoever is proposed by School Committee. All questions relating to this situation must be resolved by July 1st, the date of the change of school administration.

The Recording Clerk has been informed that there is an error in the minutes for December 2007 concerning the Clerk of School Committee. A correction has been made. (Please see the December '07 Minutes.)

Friends approved the reading of the draft minutes at the end of Meeting for Business. The complete, finished minutes will continue to be available to members and regular attenders before the next Meeting for Business.

The Meeting minutes its appreciation for the work of the Ad Hoc committee.

It was observed that the Meeting for Business had lasted less than one hour.

The Meeting for Business closed with a reading of the minutes followed by a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne R. Heizer, Recording Clerk

## First Day School For Adults

**March 4** — Bob Brookes will lead a session explaining the Meeting's children's safety policy which was established last year. He will be assisted by the following three committees: Care, Children's Inclusion, and Religious Education.

**March 11** — Meeting for Worship for Business

**March 18** — A film by the Southern Poverty Law Center on how to build a more tolerant world

**March 25** — Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting at Arch Street Meeting House

**April 1** — Meeting for Worship for Business

**April 8** — Easter (No class)

**April 15** — Deborah Vermaat, mother of Jaimie Vermaat who attends meeting here regularly, will speak about Mae Crowe, her great aunt, whose brutal murder in 1912 in Forsyth County, Georgia led to the expulsion of African Americans in the county. This is only one of the many cases of racial expulsion discussed in Elliot Jaspin's controversial new book, *Buried in the Bitter Waters: The Hidden History of Racial Cleansing in America*.

On April 22 and 29, Library Committee will hold a discussion of the book *Holy Silence* by J. Brent Bill. This book is an introduction to Quaker spirituality that should be of interest to new and long-time Friends alike. The books are \$7 each.

## Updates From HFS

*I received a report from the school full of the wonderful things that have been happening at HFS this year. Segments of the report will appear in the next few newsletters. — editor*

### Spanish Education

In all Spanish classes at HFS this past marking period students have been expressing themselves with a theatrical flair through mini-plays complete with costumes and props. Many times one can walk into Spanish class and see students in huge elaborate hats, masks, feathered boas, or acting as different characters or animals. Putting on a different "persona" has really helped with students' expression in Spanish. At this time all classes are all preparing for a lunch in the Spanish room and amusingly have chosen more or less the same menu! While growth in Spanish has been expanded throughout all grade levels this year two sections of the school have gone through the greatest transformation.

In kindergarten through second grade the students have engaged in activities such as listening to traditional stories such as *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *Where is my Monster* using the themes from these stories as a jumping board for vocabulary development and responding to command phrases in Spanish. Using some of the themes we reviewed in the stories, the students have designed a mini-menu for a Spanish luncheon along with table settings; went on a body part search around the school to create a classroom-friendly monster; learned about family members; sang songs and engaged in movement activities to help retell the stories in Spanish. It is particularly amusing to watch six-year-olds set the table to the tune of "La Cucaracha."

Each year our middle school Spanish program grows at extraordinary speed. This is where one can see how having a solid foreign language experience in elementary school drives real success. Our Spanish I program now starts as a major subject in sixth grade. Most importantly, sixth grades will now start Spanish I and our goal is to complete Spanish II by the end of eighth grade. So far the sixth grades have completed the first two chapters of their Spanish book along with two chapters in a foreign language studies skills packet. Middle school students have also engaged in a variety of theatrical and explorative activities to help make the language "real" for them. At this time we are planning a walking trip

## Make New Friends (But Keep the Old) ...

Recently, new member Judy Barnes reflected on Meeting for Worship. "On some Sundays there is a theme that runs through the Meeting that stays with me all week. It tickles me that sometimes it comes out of a child. Or it might come out of what seems at first a rambling message. One theme from a past Meeting has continued to travel with me for several months."

An intensely spiritual person, Judy says she is actually "timid. People interpret my stiffness as someone in control." But only recently is she "at the place spiritually of accepting my own responsibility for growing, rather than looking to others for what to do."

At least a decade ago, Judy became uncomfortable with the Catholic teachings about Jesus as the only son of God. "I began to feel that we're all sons and daughters of God," she mused. Then she began to question the doctrines of baptism and salvation. "Writing the letter to my pastor was one of the hardest things I've done in my life," she said. "Luckily, he received it with such grace." Judy had no idea where to go, but "community worship is part of my idea of being a God-centered person." She visited various churches. When she sat with Friends "the silence spoke to me. And as I watched these human beings try to

run an organization without Roberts Rules of Order, and I looked into how and why that is done, it struck me that this is as close as I've found of people sincerely reaching for unity."

Judy is "basically at a very good place in my life." Living in Haddon Heights with her husband Barney, she is retired from child-rearing (three grown daughters) and from many years as a Federal employee. Now she has time for her lifelong interest in healing. "In the 1970s I discovered a tiny paperback called *The Healing Light* (by Agnes Sanford) that changed my view of what prayer is. Now when I pray for someone, I picture them healthy, because the image used in a prayer is very powerful. In recent years I've read a lot about light, prayer, and the inward life."

Judy does bodywork, too. "I've started practicing a Japanese healing art called Jin Shin Jyutsu, which is similar to acupressure in that it uses the practitioner's hands to move blocked life force energy along in the body."

Not surprisingly, Judy is a Camden County Master Gardener and an organic gardener as well.

*By Judy Kruger*

## ... One Is Silver And The Other Gold.

*A song sung in Girl Scout camp.*

to a local restaurant and will be making some of our own recipes in class.

I am exceptionally pleased with the students' achievement over the past two years and am looking forward to seeing how our younger students thrive in the years to come.

*Karen Paoli  
Haddonfield Friends School*

### Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Sessions

Friends are planning to gather as a Yearly Meeting in Philadelphia the weekend of March 23-25 to learn and share our continuing concerns of peace. There will be activities planned for all ages. Children's sessions will ask "What's

God's big idea for you?" Middle School Friends will have a program at Friends Neighborhood Guild and Young Friends will meet at Germantown Monthly Meeting. Adults will share concerns of peace and searching for right ways to use personal and community resources. Speakers will include Mary Lord, Assistant General Secretary for Peace and Conflict Resolution at AFSC, and Joe Volk of FCNL.

Please let PYM know you are coming! Look for an announcement card in the mail or visit the PYM web site [www.pym.org/annualsessions](http://www.pym.org/annualsessions) or call 215-241-7238 to get information about the schedule and registration forms. Middle School and Young Friends registrations can be found at [www.pym.org/education](http://www.pym.org/education). **Please register by March 15.**

## AFSC Leader Speaking at Westtown

Mary Ellen McNish, General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, will make a presentation at 3 PM, Sunday, March 11, in the auditorium at Westtown School, Westtown, PA.

Is there any way to prevent war? Can we do something beyond writing letters to Congress and attending peace rallies? Mary Ellen McNish will give a resounding “yes” to those questions. The AFSC looks at this issue from a unique point of view.

Block these 2 hours on your calendar and make a point of bringing a non-Quaker friend to spread the word about a different, pragmatic way to address injustice and violence. This program — “AFSC, the Quiet Force” — is sponsored by Downingtown Friends Meeting’s Bicentennial Committee.

## New Books in the Library

*Submitted by Judy Kruger*

*Practicing Peace in Times of War.* By Pema Chodron.  
“With war and violence flaring all over the world, many of us are left feeling vulnerable and utterly helpless. In this book Pema Chodron draws on Buddhist teachings to explore the origins of aggression, hatred, and war, explaining that they lie nowhere but in our own hearts and minds. She goes on to explain that the way we as individuals respond to challenges in our everyday lives can either perpetuate a culture of violence or create a new culture of compassion. She offers practical techniques any of us can use to work for peace in our own lives, at the level of our habits of thought and action.”

*The Tent of Abraham: Stories of Hope and Peace for Jews, Christians, and Muslims.* By Joan Chittister, OSB; Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti; and Rabbi Arthur Waskow.  
“...Stories that can bring all the faiths together. Written by three religious leaders, from the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian faiths, the book explores in accessible language the mythic quality and teachings of reconciliation that are embedded in the Torah, the Quran, and the Bible. It also employs the story of Abraham from all three of these sacred texts to weave together the wisdoms of these religious traditions into a deeper, more unified whole.”

## Used Book Sale

The Library Committee is holding a used book sale on March 18 during covered dish. If you would like to donate gently used books toward the sale, place them in the drop-off box in the library. No textbooks or magazines, please. All proceeds benefit the library.

## Climate Action Item

*PYM’s Climate Action Coordinators intend to provide a short Climate Action item for Meeting newsletters each month. The items may range from a query, like the initial item below, to announcing an event, an advocacy opportunity, or advice on saving energy.*

### Climate Change, Energy, and the Peace Testimony

*Context:* At Annual Sessions in March, PYM will continue its focus on the Peace Testimony that began at a Called Session in November. Since then, scientists have reported that climate change is known to be occurring more rapidly than expected. Furthermore, two of the nation’s leading oil experts say they believe the world has already reached “peak oil” production, and that it will soon become impossible to supply as much oil as is now being used.

*Query:* How does the prospect of turmoil and conflict due to climate change and diminishing oil supplies affect our understanding of living in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion for all wars?

## Quakerism Programs at Pendle Hill

This spring and summer Pendle Hill offers several new programs on Quaker faith and practice along with some “regulars.” These programs are designed to provide practical and spiritual support to individual Friends and the Meeting community.

The new programs include:

- The Dance of Quaker Leadership, with former PYM clerk Gretchen Castle, April 13-15
- Being a Friendly Adult Presence, on working with middle and high school youth (co-sponsored with the Religious Education Committee of Friends General Conference), May 11-13
- Financial Stewardship as Ministry, with Laura Melly and Howard Zuses, May 18-20

Interested Friends are encouraged to register early for these repeated programs:

- Experiment with Light, with Marcelle Martin and Bob Denison, based on British Friend Rex Ambler's work, April 23-27
- Clerking, with new PYM General Secretary Arthur Larrabee, April 27-29
- Inquirers' Weekend: Basic Quakerism, with Dwight Wilson and Nancy Marsteller, July 27-29

For more information, call Pendle Hill at 610-566-4507 or 800-742-3150, ext. 3, or visit [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org).

## Poems Old and New

Cecil McFadden sent in this poem from *Rilke's Book of Hours, Love Poems to God*

Why am I reaching again for the brushes?  
When I paint your portrait, God,  
nothing happens.

But I can choose to feel you.

At my senses' horizon  
you appear hesitantly,  
like scattered islands.

Yet standing here, peering out,  
I'm all the time seen by you.

The choruses of angels use up all of heaven.  
There's no more room for you  
in all that glory. You're living  
in your very last house.

All creation holds its breath, listening within me,  
because, to hear you, I keep silent.

*Translated by Anita Barrows and Joanna Macy*

## Historical Association Visiting Woolman Site

A visit to Mount Holly and the John Woolman Memorial will take place on Sunday, May 6, under the aegis of Friends Historical Association. The program will begin at 10 AM with meeting for worship at Mount Holly Meeting, 81 High Street. This will be followed by lunch and a tour of the Woolman House (\$3 fee).

Everyone should bring a box lunch. Dessert and beverage will be served by our Woolman hosts. The speaker of the day will be J. William Frost, retired Director of the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College. His topic will be "John Woolman: Reshaping The Peace Testimony."

# March 2007



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:20 am FDS	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm Covered dish and movie
<b>11</b> 9 am Library Committee 9 am Peace & Soc. Concerns 10 am Meeting for Worship 11 am Meeting for Business	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:30 pm Care Committee	<b>14</b> 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10 am Meeting for Worship 11 am FDS 12 noon covered dish 5 pm Special Called Meeting "Knowing Our Self as a Meeting"	<b>19</b> Newsletter deadline 7:30 pm Prop. Committee	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7 pm Peace Prayer Gathering	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> PYM Annual Sessions	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> PYM Annual Sessions 10 am Meeting for Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>