



Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter

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

Volume 50 No. 9
May 2004

From Worship and Ministry

To Friends in New Jersey in America,

My desire is that you may all be kept in the fear of God, and that you may have the Lord in your eye, in all your understands: for many eyes of other governments or colonies will be upon you; yea, the Indians, to see how you order your lives and conversations. And therefore let your lives and words, and conversations be as becomes the gospel, that may adorn the Truth, and honor the Lord in all your undertakings. Let that only be in your eye, and you will have the Lord's blessing and increase, both in basket and field, and store-house; and at your lyings-down you will feel him, and at your going-forth, and coming in.

*George Fox
Swarthmore, the 4th of 1st month, 1676*

Coffee and Covered Dish for May

Peace & Social Concerns Committee

The Friendship Committee relies on volunteers for coffee from June through August. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Upcoming Events

May 1 — Workshop on Meetinghouse Maintenance
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Arch Street Meetinghouse.

May 2 — Cleanup around the Meetinghouse
Stay after Meeting for Worship or First Day School and help spruce up the Meetinghouse grounds.

May 8 — HFS Spring Fling

May 15 — Partnering with You: A Workshop for Couples

Friends Center, 1515 Cherry Street. Leadership will be provided by Patricia McBee and Brad Sheeks of

the Couple Enrichment Program of Friends General Conference.

May 22 — Gathering on Worship, Ministry, and Eldering

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Arch Street Meetinghouse.
The entire morning will be extended worship. In the afternoon we will focus on what has emerged in the morning worship. All those who feel a call to ministry of any sort, including the spiritual nurture of their Meetings, or who are longing for a deeper experience of Quaker worship, are urged to attend. Please bring a bag lunch.

Looking Ahead

June 27 — Quarterly Meeting at Newton Meeting.
Meeting for Worship at 10 a.m., lunch from 11:30 to 12:30. Please bring a picnic bag lunch. Strawberries and ice cream will be provided. From 12:30 to 1:30 will be unprogrammed fun time. Traveling by foot, speedline, or car, we can continue the day at the Aquarium, in the Children's Garden (we understand that it is free of charge), or enjoying the waterfront.

April Monthly Meeting for Business — April 16, 2004

The meeting began with a period of open worship. There were 13 in attendance. The clerk read from *Faith & Practice*, Query #6 — Equality.

How does our Meeting help to create and maintain a society whose institutions recognize and do away with the inequities rooted in patterns of prejudice and economic convenience?

Is our Meeting open to all regardless of race, ability, sexual orientation, or class?

What steps are we taking as a Meeting to assure that our Meeting and the committees and institutions under our care reflect our respect for all and are free from practices rooted in prejudice?

For Nominating Committee, Ceil McFadden presented the committee's annual report and a slate of proposed new committee members. The slate will be submitted for approval at the May Meeting for Business.

For Care Committee, Ruth Podolin presented the committee's annual report.

Meeting needs an evaluation of our insurance needs. Since the insurance committee has not met, Connie Brookes volunteered to start the process by seeking information from Friends Insurance Group. In addition, the Clerk will consult with Bob Turrin, who was to clerk the Insurance Committee. There will be a report at the May meeting.

Flora McKinney brought a concern about the lack of literature available to Meeting members on conscientious objection. Meeting requested that the Working Group on Conscientious Objection convene to consider ways of raising interest among our young people and their parents about the Peace Testimony.

Lucy Savarese reported that the grant she applied for from the Chace Fund has been awarded and the artist-in-residence project at her school is underway.

The clerk reminded Friends that at May Meeting for Business, the following reports will be on the agenda: Treasurer's Quarterly Report and Proposed Covenant Contribution to PYM, Peace & Social Concerns and Property Committee. Since Mother's Day is on the second Sunday in May, May Business Meeting will be on the second Friday — May 14.

First Day School in May

May 2 — Children's classes meet. Adults will hear Brian Blount, Ph.D., from Princeton Theological Seminary speak on the The Gospel of Mark. This was postponed from April 18.

May 9 — No First Day School.

May 16 — Closing Ceremonies for Children's First Day School classes.

Committee for the Care of Members and Attenders Annual Report 2004

In the last year, Care Committee pursued its mission of maintaining our Meeting as a caring community. One of the more visible committee developments this past year was, of course, the change of the name of the committee from Overseers to the Committee for the Care of Members and Attenders (Care Committee for short). This change was precipitated by a growing sensitivity about the name "Overseers" and its association with a particularly violent aspect of slavery in America. Our action follows the example of many other Quaker Meetings that have considered the same concern. A positive additional result of the name change is that our new name more accurately reflects the mission of the committee, and addresses the common misconception that our role was to "oversee" the affairs of the Monthly Meeting and other committees.

Throughout the year Care Committee met on a monthly basis and tended to its administrative work with respect to all aspects of membership. We handled several applications for membership, transfers and resignations. We have implemented measures to help ensure that clearness committees and welcoming committees include seasoned Friends with a good understanding of the important purposes that visitations serve.

Much of Care Committee's work is of a confidential nature and cannot be set forth in detail in this report. This included counseling and locating resources to help members of our community with a variety of personal problems and needs.

Among the business that came before Care Committee, three themes seemed to recur throughout the year and continue to present challenges for the committee. First, we sense that there are conflicts and incidents that cause pain within our community that go unnoticed and unaddressed. We wish we had better mechanisms for learning about and addressing these problems in a timely and effective way and we frequently discussed ways to improve in this area.

Second, Friends' needs associated with advancing age and sickness seem to be increasing. At times we feel we have inadequate resources to provide the support needed by older Friends and those in poor health. We continue to seek ways to better serve the Meeting community in this regard and would welcome ideas from Friends. We also wish to note our appreciation to the many people in the

Meeting who have helped support those in need with transportation, food, companionship and in so many other ways. Third, we sensed a need to take a leadership role in the work of educating seekers, attenders and new members on the mutual commitments and expectations that come with membership in the Society of Friends and our Meeting in particular. We hope to instill in those contemplating membership a better understanding of what it means to be a member of Haddonfield Monthly Meeting. We feel that at least some conflicts and differences within our community could be prevented, and the spiritual life of the Meeting thus enhanced, with more attention to this process of building a firm understanding of the responsibilities of membership. To this end, in addition to improvement of the clearness process, we began work on what might be called a handbook or manual for seekers and attenders and for Friends mentoring those considering membership. We hope to introduce this for the Meeting's approval in 2004.

Care Committee has greatly missed the involvement of our clerk Diane Snyder, who has been unable to participate in the past few months due to her son Eric's illness. We look forward to getting Diane back as soon as she is able. In addition, we will soon be losing some of our most experienced committee members through the usual rotation process. We ask that the Meeting consider Care Committee's need to be replenished with seasoned, committed Friends as an important priority.

Submitted by Ruth Podolin, Acting Clerk, Committee for the Care of Members and Attenders, April 2004

Haddonfield Friends Meeting Guidelines for Vocal Ministry

Haddonfield Friends Worship & Ministry Committee has drawn up the following in consultation with the Committee For Care of Members and Attenders. What follows are not intended as hard and fast rules. Rather, they are meant as suggestions based upon our individual and communal experience.

Meeting for Worship is central to our experience as Quakers. In order that all who attend may be gathered together with God and reap the utmost benefit from our time together, we encourage Friends in their vocal ministry and offer the following suggestions:

Meeting for Worship cannot prosper if it is isolated from the rest of our lives. Friends traditionally have

been encouraged to come to worship with "hearts and minds prepared" by a daily discipline of devotional reading, prayer or meditation.

Some Friends may find it helpful to enter directly into Meeting, minimizing any social encounters. Others may find it important to interact socially with other Friends prior to Meeting. Regardless, all Friends are reminded to be prompt in their attendance at the appointed hour.

Once Meeting begins, take time to enter fully into the Spirit or worship. Gently let go of distractions, as you center down and open yourself to the workings of the Spirit.

Come to Meeting with neither a resolve to speak, nor a determination not to speak. Rather, seek an attitude of openness to the leadings of the Spirit.

If you feel moved to speak, take a moment to test your leading. Is your message from the Spirit or somewhere else? If it is from God, is it meant only for yourself, or for the entire Meeting? Genuine ministry is often preceded by a physical uneasiness, a "heart pounding weakness," from which our name Quaker is derived.

Remember that silence is not just the space between messages, but a deep and living communion with the "Spirit, which giveth life." Your silent prayer and openness to God are themselves a form of ministry that enriches the Meeting community. Allow adequate time between spoken messages, so that all may listen to God and truly hear the previous message.

Vocal ministry carried on in a spirit of debate or lecturing or discussion is destructive to the life of the meeting for worship and of the meeting community. It is rarely useful to answer or rebut what has been previously said. Friends moved to vigorous support of causes are asked to find brief and sensitive ways to voice their insights.

Brevity is an under-appreciated virtue. If you speak, do not feel compelled to explore all the implications of your insight. Rather, leave room for the Spirit to work through the next person, building on your words and possibly extending them in an unexpected direction.

Inevitably, not all vocal ministry will be equally meaningful to all present. Remember that ministry that does not speak to you may nevertheless be valuable to others. If you find yourself struggling with another's words, learn to listen to the Spirit behind the words.

In regard to any impulse to speak a second time during worship, Friends have traditionally counseled restraint. Partly this is a matter of equity (since most present will not speak at all, none should speak more than once), and partly a recognition that to offer genuine vocal ministry is a weighty matter, regarding a degree of spiritual discernment and obedience beyond what most of us can muster twice in a single hour.

Finally, remember that our manner of worship is ultimately a mystery under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Each Meeting for Worship is a spiritual adventure, unique and unpredictable. Let us remember in humility that “the end of words is to bring us to the knowledge of things beyond what words can utter.” (*Isaac Pennington, 1670*)

FGC Annual Gathering

Friends General Conference will hold the 2004 Gathering of Friends at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, July 3-10, 2004. The theme is “Simple Lives, Radiant Faith.”

“As we searched for our theme, feeling the weight of world conflict, we wanted to celebrate our faith as well as challenge each other,” explained Judy Brophy, co-clerk of the Gathering Committee. Judy is a member of Monadanock Meeting in New Hampshire (NEYM.)

The Gathering will explore faith and simplicity through workshops, plenary addresses, and special events. Each afternoon, two Friends whose lives exemplify the theme will hold informal conversations with attenders. Speakers will include Mary Ellen McNish, Peter Blood-Patterson, Kevin Bales, Renita Weems, and Lester Brown of the Earth Policy Institute.

In Junior Gathering, children entering grades 1 to 7 will choose among theme groups appropriate to their age. There are also Junior High, High School and Adult Young Friends communities and activities.

The community will be gathered in worship, from the opening meetings on Sunday morning through a closing meeting on Saturday, July 10. A daily Bible half-hour, FLGBTQC worship and the Silent Center will also be available. Music making and singing will abound. Yoga, contra dancing, folk dancing, and other movement opportunities will occur throughout the Gathering. Field trips are planned to local points of interest, and opportunities for post-Gathering travel are available.

Friends General Conference has financial support for Gathering attenders. Scholarships and workgrants are available to help make Gathering affordable. First time attenders scholarships match grants from monthly and yearly meetings. General scholarships assist families and individuals with the expenses of room/board and registration. Additional information is available from Liz Perch, Conference Coordinator, at the address below. Friends are urged not to let cost issues keep them from considering attendance.

Detailed information about the Gathering will be available in the Advance Program. You may request an Advance Program by contacting Friends General Conference at 1216 Arch Street, 2B, Philadelphia, PA 19107; 215-561-1700 or email gathering@fgcquaker.org.

Thank You

The Library Committee thanks you for supporting the March 21 book sale. We made \$112.55, which will be spent for library improvement. Leftover books were donated to prisons.

Irene Bassow

Meetinghouse Needs Volunteers to Share Quaker History

The Arch Street Meetinghouse in Philadelphia receives about 40,000 visitors annually. The largest number come in April, May and early June. PYM is in great need of enthusiastic Quaker volunteers to help during this period. If you would enjoy talking about the Religious Society of Friends, our beliefs and practices as well as the meetinghouse with mostly school-age children, we would love to hear from you.

You can be reimbursed for transportation costs, whether by car or public transit. Volunteers are needed weekdays — morning, afternoon or all day — between 10 a.m and 4 p.m. There are many resources available, so you can learn on-site. It's a great way to strengthen your own Quaker beliefs.

Fellowship of Friends of African Descent

The Fellowship of Friends of African Descent announces its 2004 Annual Gathering — “I Am, Because We Are” — at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, Thursday through Sunday, July 15-18.

Friend Audrey West from the United Kingdom will give the plenary on Friday evening entitled, "Forgiveness and Reconciliation." Trayce Peterson, Director of Campus & Quaker Ministries at Earlham College, will minister to us during the Program Worship on Saturday morning. A representative from the Howard Thurman Leadership Center in Atlanta will offer insight on "Howard Thurman and Quakers" Saturday evening.

We are excited that Janet Melnyk, from the department of Religion & Philosophy at Clark Atlanta University, will co-sponsor our youth program. Those registering young people are encouraged to register early.

For registration and additional information visit www.fellowshippoffriendsof african descent.org

Youth Think Tank on Peace and Justice

Are you committed to creating social change in this world? Want to learn from some of the people and organizations who are making a difference? The Peace and Justice Think Tank is a week-long event for high school and college age Quakers or "serious Quaker sympathizers" to learn more about spirit-led activism and community organizing. We will be meeting with activists young and old, attending workshops to sharpen our skills, and doing work projects.

The Think Tank runs Sunday to Saturday, August 15-21, 2004, at the Friends Workcamp Center in West Philadelphia with field trips around the area. The cost is \$200. There may be financial aid available. Applications are due June 1. For more information and application contact Arin Ahlum Hanson at 215-241-7236 or arinh@pym.org.

Inquirers' Weekend on Basic Quakerism

Are you an attender or new member of a Friends Meeting interested in finding answers to your questions about Quakerism? Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Pendle Hill will co-sponsor a June 25-27 Inquirers' Weekend on Basic Quakerism at Pendle Hill in Wallingford, PA. Gene Hillman of the PYM staff and Deanna Wylie Mayer of Westtown Meeting (PA) are the co-leaders. Pendle Hill offers scholarships to match grants from Friends Meetings. Contact registrar@pendlehill.org or call 610-566-4507 ext. 142.

Concord Quarterly Meeting Seeks Staff Person

Concord Quarter is looking for a staff person to assist with facilitating and supporting communication and programs within the Quarter, for Meetings and individual Meeting members. We are looking for a Friend with strong grounding in Friends' testimonies, values, and traditions. This person will need strong communication and organizational skills, and must be able to work with Friends of all ages. Thirty hours per week to start, with benefits.

Peace without Justice?

"If a tree falls in the forest, and no one is there to see it happen, did the tree really fall?"

Last month we presented a four-part series on the Middle East: the Separation Barrier, Iraq, Jews for Peace, Arab Christians. The purpose was to inform, raise awareness and concern especially in an election year where it might matter whom we elect. We, as Americans, are involved in the Middle East because every year on April 15th, we pay for the weapons that kill. The issues of the region will not go away if we ignore them. In Israel/Palestine the daily hardships continue even when there isn't a suicide bombing report on the front pages of the newspapers. We will not have peace as long as human rights abuses and violations continue.

*This report is from Machsom Watch
(www.machsomwatch.org) Women for Human Rights.*

Machsom Watch was founded in January 2001 in response to repeated reports in the press about human rights abuses of Palestinians crossing army and border police checkpoints. The prolonged closure and siege of villages and towns on the West Bank provided the stimulus for what at first seemed an impossible mission. The initiative of three women — Ronnee Jaeger, a long-time activist with experience of human rights work in Guatemala and Mexico; Adi Kuntsman, a feminist scholar who emigrated from the former Soviet Union in 1990; and veteran activist Yehudit Keshet, an orthodox Jewess — Machsom Watch now boasts 400 women all over the country.

(excerpts from Monthly Summaries, Feb 2004):

...Machsom Watch representatives met the commander of the West Bank division, Gad Eizenkot, on February 16, 2004. The commander claimed that passage at Qalandiya checkpoint (outside Ramallah) is free and that the Palestinian population is subjected to random checking only. In reality the situation is absolutely different. Innumerable restrictions are imposed, which prevent many people from passage. People living in A-Ram who need to go for services or work to Ramallah (or vice versa) are forced to take a long roundabout way through the Surda passage, and to waste 1½ hours and NIS 25 (Israeli Shekels). On February 5, small children were allowed to pass only with original birth certificates, while photocopies were confiscated. On February 9, only people with either Israeli IDs or with permits were allowed to pass. The denial of passage to a mother with a 12-day old baby, to a pregnant woman released from Ramallah hospital for two days and to a 50-year old epileptic man are also in clear disagreement with Commander Eizenkot's perception of who is allowed to pass the Qalandiya checkpoint. When we arrived at this checkpoint, we met soldiers in flak jackets on "high alert" since children in the area were throwing stones. The children broke through a fence and confronted the soldiers. After some time, three jeeps arrived and fired at them for an hour. We contacted Adi Dagan of army

radio and Kol Yisrael to report what was going on. We were told by shopkeepers and residents of the area that two children were wounded by the army shots, one in his head and another in his leg. They were taken to the government hospital in Ramallah.

There was a man, and a woman who was pregnant — residents of Qalqilya according to their IDs. The husband was required to return home and bring his marriage certificate and pictures from their wedding to prove that they were married. The proof was received, they were allowed to pass.

Soldiers at Qalandiya checkpoint feel highly knowledgeable in many areas, and feel competent to test professionals, in order to check whether their documents are original or forged. A physical education teacher is asked to identify a muscle of an arm, a physiotherapist is questioned on Latin names of bones; physicians undergo extensive professional questioning as well. It is worth adding that on February 24 and 28 the population was surprised by a relatively free passage. The locals were not notified about these changes. Some people unnecessarily bypassed the checkpoint and were punished for it by prolonged detention.

May 2004



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 10 am Meeting for Worship Meetinghouse clean up 11:20 am FDS 12:15 pm REC	3	4	5 9:15 am All-school Meeting for Worship 7 pm School Committee	6 7:30 pm Joint Meeting of Care Committee and Worship & Ministry	7	8 Noon-4 pm HFS Spring Fling
9 9 am Peace & Social Concerns 10 am Meeting for Worship No FDS	10	11 7:30 pm Care Committee	12 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	13	14 7:30 pm Monthly Meeting for Business	15
16 Newsletter deadline 10 am Meeting for Worship 11 am FDS Closing Ceremony 12 covered dish	17	18	19 9:15 am Meeting for Worship 7:30 pm Property Committee	20 7:30 pm Worship & Ministry	21	22
23 10 am Meeting for Worship	24	25	26 9:15 am Meeting for Worship	27	28	29
30 10 am Meeting for Worship	31 MEMORIAL DAY					