



# FRIENDLY CONNECTIONS

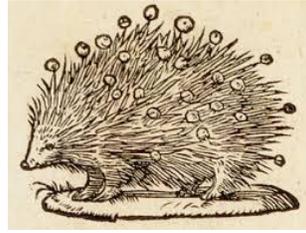
State College Friends Meeting  
MARCH 2014  
Newsletter



*State College Friends Meeting  
611 East Prospect Ave.  
State College, PA 16801  
Phone (814) 237-7051*



## A Note from the Editors



The cautious, well-defended but basically peaceable porcupine appears this month because, somehow, the gentle determination of woodland creatures in emerging from their winter huddle into the balm of the spring sun seems a fitting symbol for how we all may be feeling after a winter of memorable severity.

In this issue, we include the minutes of last month's Meeting for Business, recent messages from AFSC and other Friendly initiatives, a commentary by Fred Binkley, and a poem by recently deceased Friend Amy Hodel-Weber. On a personal note, I (Deryn) realized after reading the Memorial note about Amy that I went to college with her son's wife, Penny Thron! It is a small Friendly world.

As always, we invite our readers to consider writing a short piece for the Newsletter. We welcome personal reflections, commentary, and interviews with interesting Friends, or friends of Friends. Please continue to send news items, announcements, and comments to our e-mailbox:

[SCFMnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:SCFMnewsletter@gmail.com)

With best wishes for health and increasing warmth,  
Your Editors *Deryn Verity & Marianne Stevens*



## Baltimore Yearly Meeting

[I am very sorry. I put the March Queries in last month's Newsletter. This month they are correct, but repeated. Entirely my error. Marianne]

### *The Meeting Community*

#### *QUERIES*

Are love and harmony within the Meeting community fostered by a spirit of open sharing? Do you endeavor to widen your circle of friendships within the Meeting,

seeking to know persons of all ages and at all stages of the spiritual journey?

Does the Meeting provide for the spiritual refreshment of all members and attenders? Do Friends provide spiritual and practical care for the elderly, the lonely, and others with special needs?

## Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

### *Spiritual Nurture, Ministry, and Religious Education*

Does our Meeting encourage the ministry of both word and deed? How does our Meeting recognize, develop, and nurture the gifts of our members and attenders of all ages?

Does our Meeting prepare all its members and children for worship and for a way of life consistent with the principles of



the Religious Society of Friends? How do we teach about Quaker practices in business and worship and their importance to the functioning of our Meeting community?

In what ways do we support each other in order to seek God's will and act upon our understanding of truth? Is there opportunity in our Meeting to share the excitement of religious discovery and the possibility of religious transformation?

Does our Meeting provide opportunities for all in the Meeting to learn about:

- the Inner Light, the living Christ within, the Bible, the writings of Friends, our Christian heritage, other religious traditions and their respective roles in the history and formation of Friends' principles?
- the common testimonies Friends declare?
- the variety of expression Quaker faith takes today?

Do I maintain as part of my personal and family life those daily practices that focus on continued spiritual growth, with disciplined worship, inward retirement, and communion with the divine spirit?

Do I frequently read the Bible and other religious literature, including the records of the lives and experiences of Friends? Do I take the time to explore these resources with others, and likewise encourage my children?



Do I share my own faith and spiritual journey, and encourage such sharing within my family?



## Announcements

*March's potluck* will be hosted by Advancement & Outreach Committee.

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*Notices* for the weekly Bulletin should be sent to the office by Thursday, 5:00 pm to [office@statecollegefriends.org](mailto:office@statecollegefriends.org) or by phone to 814-237-7051.

*Notices* for the monthly Newsletter should be sent by the third Saturday of the month to the Editors, Marianne Stevens & Deryn Verity: [SCFMnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:SCFMnewsletter@gmail.com)



## Viewpoint on Quakerism 101 from the Religious Left Banke\*

*by Fred Binkley*

Unfortunately, the snow on Seven Mountains kept me away from the second session of Quakerism 101 in February. I was able to read the material in the two pamphlets in preparation for the session, and I'm very glad I did. Despite my problems with the specifically Christian and conservative views in some of it, I must compliment the organizers of our Quakerism 101 and the authors of both Pendle Hill pamphlets for some really valid points about what I consider to be the real gospel of the real God.

Page 13 of Pamphlet 400 speaks of one 20th Century Friend whose family "sold their wedding silver in order to have funds to help meet the needs of others less blessed than they felt themselves to be." Now there are some REAL Friends! Speaking of Christianity, seems I recall some fellow named Jesus who spoke of selling one's belongings and giving to the poor? Modern Christians love to ignore or rationalize their way out of that one! Page 16 states that "Mildred Young is



unequivocal in blaming our inflated standard of living for our ineffectiveness in other testimonies, conspicuously peace and the related issue of justice.” Amen! If I might add a related thought from my dad, a conservative Republican Methodist, he once told me that you need enough money to live comfortably but you don’t need to be rich to be happy – you need to make about \$100 a week (in the 1960’s). Thank God that I never became addicted to or even desired wealth. Better lucky than good, I guess.

Page 4 of Pamphlet 296 echoes one of my pet peeves: “If he said he would do a thing, he would do it.” As a former hands-on computer class teacher in computer lab rooms, I can assure you that I cared not why the promised new software hadn’t been installed on the computers to match my students’ text books. I cared only that my class was totally disrupted because someone did not deliver on their promise! Speaking of integrity, in my view unintentional lying is still lying – why you lied is between you and God. I care only that you lied – if you said one thing and did another, you lied in my world. By the way, “he” quoted above was George Fox! Page 6 states that “I (Wilmer A. Cooper) claim that integrity is the essential Quaker testimony and undergirds all other testimonies of

Friends ....” Amen again. Page 19 also says that “a liar is someone who tries to be something or somebody he/she is not”. This is the other side of honesty and integrity – being honest not only

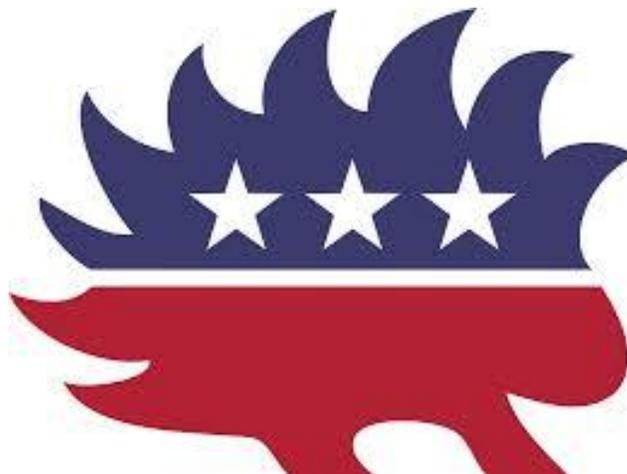




with the facts but also with one's feelings – being genuine and as page 20 of the pamphlet points out, not being hypocritical. Page 27 says that “we are in about as much danger of being destroyed by our own moral sickness ... as a society, as we are in danger of annihilation by a nuclear explosion.” This reminded me of Economics 101 in college – trust is the very basis of capitalism – without it, nothing works. Did our Wall Street banks come close to destroying us in September, 2008?

I can think of no better way to close than to repeat the same quote from my last article of the bumper sticker I saw on University Avenue: “In this age of organized universal deceit, speaking the truth is revolutionary.” Peace, simplicity, and truth be with you.

*\* The Left Banke was the name of a mid 1960's folk rock group whose name reflected the values of the youthful anti-war movement (the left banke) of that era.*





## In our mailbox this month: A message from Barbara Thomas

*bthomas60@comcast.net*

*(Editors' note: We include this piece, despite the February deadline mentioned, because further hearings will be scheduled)*

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Dear Partners for Criminal Justice Reform,

I want to update folks to consider how we might move forward on how we might take on the "school to prison to broken families to joblessness" endless loop we find in our society in the US and in Maryland. That meeting represented Annapolis and Baltimore activists. We are committed to keeping one another informed and supporting initiatives where possible. Here is our group--Partners for Criminal Justice Reform:

- The Interfaith Coalition Against Mass Incarceration--St. Philips Episcopal, Annapolis Friends, and others, who read the book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* and are still reeling from what we learned.
- The Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network (GAIN)--20 or so faith groups in the Annapolis area, who had several educational programs on the topic and another on the parole system planned for tonight that will have to be rescheduled.
- The Committee of Concerned Citizens--who are having sessions in Baltimore with gubernatorial candidates and community leaders.



- Maryland C.U.R.E.--Lea Green's note to Sen. Joanne Benson brought her interest to sponsor a bill; Lea went to lobby with Pat Schenck and Barbara Thomas once already.
- Annapolis Friends Peace and Justice Center--which has since met and is eager to be supportive in any way possible.
- AA Co Human Relations Committee--informally represented as listening ears by Yevola Peters and Pat Schenck.

Here is the initiative that Phil Caroom, Pat Schenck, Martha Baer and Barbara Thomas have been working on. It is entitled *Taskforce to Reduce Incarceration in Maryland* (TRIM) and has been introduced to the Maryland General Assembly as MD Senate Bill SB722 by Sen. Joanne Benson (D) District 24, Prince George's County along with five co-sponsors and now to the House of Delegates as HB1330 by Del. Darren M. Swain (D) District 24, PG County.

(<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2014RS/bills/sb/sb0722F.pdf>)

The next step in the bill's journey is a hearing in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, scheduled for Wednesday, February 19 at 1:00 p.m. If this committee and later the House Judiciary Committee (hearing yet to be scheduled) approve the Bill, it has a good chance of becoming law. So now, we need supporters to:

- contact members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee in support of the bill prior to February 19  
(<http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/05sen/html/com/05judp.html>)
- testify at, suggest those who might give high quality testimony, or simply attend, the hearings to show needed interest and support, and



- in a couple of weeks, repeat the process in the House of Delegates (more information on that to follow)

This bill will create a cost-free task force to research and make broad recommendations that could affect many of the areas of our individual concerns:

- excessive criminalizing of nonviolent offenses and offenders, especially drug offenses
- programs providing alternatives to incarceration
- offender screening for risk level and treatment needs
- reentry initiatives such as increasing employment programs with employer tax incentives, certificates of rehabilitation, expungement of certain nonviolent misdemeanor offenses
- coordination among local courts and corrections programs
- limiting solitary confinement
- depoliticizing parole

We need to have 5-6 excellent testimonies at the hearings to convince legislators of the wisdom of passing this bill.

Following passage, we will have additional opportunities to work with and influence the task force so that its

recommendations are substantive and on top of the agenda of Maryland's General Assembly for its opening in Jan. 2015.

Please do what you can to move this bill into law and let us

know what response you get or questions/concerns you have.

It is such important work! Forward along to whoever might be interested.



## THINKING ABOUT RACE (March 2014)

### No freak accident

From *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, pp. 237-238.

“Saying mass incarceration is an abysmal failure makes sense, though, only if one assumes that the criminal justice system is designed to prevent and control crime. But if mass incarceration is understood as a system of social control – specifically, racial control – then the system is a fantastic success. In less than two decades, the prison population quadrupled, and large majorities of poor people of color in urban areas throughout the United States were placed under the control of the criminal justice system or saddled with criminal records for life. Almost overnight, huge segments of ghetto communities were permanently relegated to a second-class status, disenfranchised, and subjected to perpetual surveillance and monitoring by law enforcement agencies. One could argue this result is a tragic, unfortunate mistake, and that the goal was always crime control, not the creation of a racial undercaste. But judging by the political rhetoric and the legal rules employed in the War on Drugs, the result is no freak accident.”





The BYM Working Group on Racism meets most months on the third Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, usually at Bethesda Friends Meeting or Friends Meeting of Washington. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David Etheridge, [david.etheridge@verizon.net](mailto:david.etheridge@verizon.net)



## From the American Friends Service Committee

The number of people deported since President Obama took office will soon reach 2 million. The President and most members of Congress agree on the need for immigration reform, but have not been able to come together to draft – and pass – legislation. While action on reform is repeatedly delayed, the U.S. continues to invest billions of dollars in detention and deportation with tragic consequences for immigrants, their families, and our country.

Newark, N.J. is one of the places where the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) provides legal assistance to people held in immigration detention centers. Every day, staff in Newark see the toll this unjust system exacts on individuals and on their families.

Despite its heartbreaking impact on families, despite widespread agreement that our immigration system wastes tax dollars without strengthening our security or benefiting our



economy, immigration reform has gone nowhere. Working every day with immigrants being detained and deported, AFSC's Newark staff has come to understand that while the current system fails at nearly every level, it does benefit some very important players. Why?

From the point of view of the prison industry, the system is not broken. It is working just as intended – producing ever-increasing demand for detention facilities and extraordinarily profitable federal contracts awarded to for-profit prison companies and public jails.

Amy Gottlieb, director of the Newark program, exposed the complex network of those who profit from detaining immigrants in a recently published op-ed at Al Jazeera America. Her article raises provocative questions about just why our government continues to drag its feet on implementing humane immigration reform. She makes a powerful case for reform that puts the needs of families and communities above the profits of the prison industry – profits that now extend beyond private prisons to local jails and other companies serving detention facilities:

County jails contract with ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency] at an average rate of \$120 per bed per day, and often push to get the contracts. For example, the Essex County jail in New Jersey signed a \$250 million five-year contract in late 2011. Currently, they also benefit from commissions on telephone calls out of jails. Essex County earns



54 percent commission on each phone call made from the jail, reaching close to \$1 million in 2012. The other 46 percent goes to a private phone company, which charges exorbitant rates to inmates.

While New York and several other states don't allow the practice, the system is legal in New Jersey. Prison companies and their contractors hold detainees and provide cover for the administration to show that they are cracking down on what they see as the immigration "problem."

The billions of taxpayer dollars funneled into immigrant detention is harmful to our economy – but just as harmful to our humanity is the denial of basic human rights.

People in detention include recently-arrived asylum-seekers, undocumented immigrants arrested solely due to their lack of status, and long-time lawful residents of the U.S. facing deportation for a prior criminal offense. There is little or no assessment of whether the person is actually a flight risk or a danger to the community.

But outreach like Amy's gives us hope! AFSC's message to invest in just and humane immigration reform is reaching a wide audience across the U.S., amplifying AFSC's work in Washington, on the U.S.-Mexico border, and in cities like Newark – bringing a human face to conversations about immigration policy.

Fourteen years ago, the man who asked Amy to write the op-



ed was himself an asylum-seeker detained in New Jersey. AFSC represented him then, and today he is a U.S. citizen and an associate producer with Al Jazeera America in New York.

Please join AFSC in advocating for just and humane reforms that strengthen our communities and the economy. Ask President Obama to stop deportations, so that not one more person, not one more family falls prey to this unjust system.

In Peace, Shan Cretin  
General Secretary, American Friends Service Committee



## State College Friends Meeting Business Meeting, February 2, 2014

In attendance were: Kersey Bradley, Roger and Mary Way, Polly Dunn, Cathy Drapcho Klein, Maya Spence, Martin Melville, Dan Hendey, Brosi Bradley, James Bradley, Margy Frysinger, Cy Merriweather DeVries, Darlene Clark, Elizabeth Pennock, Campbell Plowden, Ann Sidone, Laurie Jeffries, Larry Greenleaf, Carolyn Rudd, Kerry Wiessmann and Selden Smith.

The Clerk opened with the BYM and PYM Queries for business meetings:

### **Baltimore Yearly Meeting**

*Are meetings for business held in a spirit of worship, understanding and forbearance? When direction seems lacking, is this seen as a challenge to a more prayerful search for truth? Do we humbly set aside our own preconceived notions as to proper action, seeking instead Divine guidance as to the right course? Is the Meeting aware that it speaks not only through its actions but also through its failure to act?*

*Do you participate regularly in meetings for business, discharge faithfully your committee responsibilities, and assume your share of financial support of the Meeting?*

### **Philadelphia Yearly Meeting**

*Is our meeting for business held in the spirit of a meeting for worship in which we seek divine guidance?*

*Are we careful to keep in the spirit of worship each of the concerns that emerge, whether of nurture, of Spirit, of social concerns, of property, or of finance?*

*Are Meeting decisions directed by prayerful consideration of all aspects of an*



*issue and are difficult problems considered carefully with patient search for truth, unhurried by the pressures of time?*

*How do we respond if we notice the meeting has lost an understanding of the presence of God?*

*Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?*

*Do I regularly attend meeting for business and in a spirit of love and unity? If unable to attend, how do I attend to my responsibility?*

*Do I consider prayerfully the many concerns that are lifted up on any issue, acknowledging that the search for truth in unity involves what God requires, being open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?*

### Ministry and Worship Report:

Margy Frysinger reported.

1. The hearing system in the meetinghouse continues to improve, and last month people reported that they were able to hear. We are still working on optimizing our entire system and have a person lined up to do that work.
2. A summary page of the Guidelines for Planning Retreats and Workshops will be made to make it easier for people to follow the guidelines. Both will be presented at next business meeting.
3. SC Friends Meeting Worship at Foxdale was approved for March 9, 2014 assuming that Religious Education committee is able to confirm that this is an acceptable date.
4. Meeting approved the expansion of the Nominating Committee to include two more people to complete their tasks. Gary Fosmire and Louise Sandmeyer agreed to serve in this capacity.

### Care and Concern Report:



Campbell Plowden reported the successful use of “Sign-Up Genius” as a method to replace our former “Helping Hands” sign-up, to coordinate meals and rides for Kim Kelmor, who was recently in an accident. Campbell also suggested that the “Doodle Poll” be used to find meeting times for committees. Campbell offered to teach anyone how to use these tools on the computer.

Selden reported that our tenant, Lawrence, lost his job, and Care and Concern accepted the referral to consider what people in Meeting can do to help Lawrence.

#### Finance Committee Report:

Kerry Wiessmann reported that finance committee has approved the purchase of a new computer, approximately \$600 or less, to meet our need for a computer that uses the 8.1 operating system.

She also gave a summary of the four general areas of greatest interest mentioned in the previous business meeting for use of the Tuttle estate contribution:

1. Purchase solar panels for the Meeting House to be good stewards of the earth, demonstrate to the community that this is now possible, reduce or eliminate current electricity costs, and potentially have a steady income for the Meeting in the future. Finance committee suggested that this might be a more lucrative investment than creating an endowment fund with these funds.



2. Renovate the basement to make it more appealing and useful for our religious education programs and potential community use.
3. Expand outreach and advancement to provide meaningful support to
  - New attenders such as Friends Journal, Conferences, etc.
  - Families to attend Yearly Meeting Sessions and other conferences
  - People traveling in the ministry or supporting their spiritual leadings in a big way, such as temporarily residing at Pendle Hill, enrolling in ministry training, or traveling to a place to witness.
4. Provide services to our local community such as Out of the Cold, to a level more commensurate to that which other local churches do. We currently give just a token contribution to each organization.



Meeting approved requesting each committee to consider how we are called to use these funds and bring recommendations back to next business meeting, where reports will be given and referred to finance committee to further consider. Meeting also requested that Kerry provide a one page summary of this request, funds currently available and the total amount of money currently available from the estate.



## Building and Grounds Report:

Larry Greenleaf gave a lengthy report of the committee's activities:

1. Committee is planning new signage for the street and building.
2. The committee is creating a plan for landscaping our grounds so that when future requests come in to plant a tree or bench in someone's honor, that these can be easily worked into the overall plan for the property.
3. The school requested that fire extinguishers be placed in boxes so children do not have easy access to them.
4. In the Spring the concrete problem at the front door will be fixed and the committee is currently seeking bids from different companies to do this. A suggestion was made to consider enclosing the roofed area to create an air buffer, to minimize heat loss in winter.
5. A digital thermostat has been purchased for the worship area but until it is installed, friends are asked to turn the temperature down after using the room.
6. The refrigerator in the schoolhouse was replaced and CFL light fixtures have been purchased for the schoolhouse bathrooms.
7. Lance Lehman will be installing a glass-covered bulletin board in the hallway; mailboxes will be moved over to accommodate it.
8. Additional efforts are being made to eliminate the water in the basement problem and if necessary, deferred maintenance funds will be used to do this.



### Advancement and Outreach Report:

Polly Dunn gave a reminder to friends about the upcoming Quakerism session led by Therese Miller on Saturday, February 8, 2014.

### Memorial Committee Report:

Laurie Jeffries read the memorial minute for Amy Weber and it was gratefully accepted by the Meeting as is:

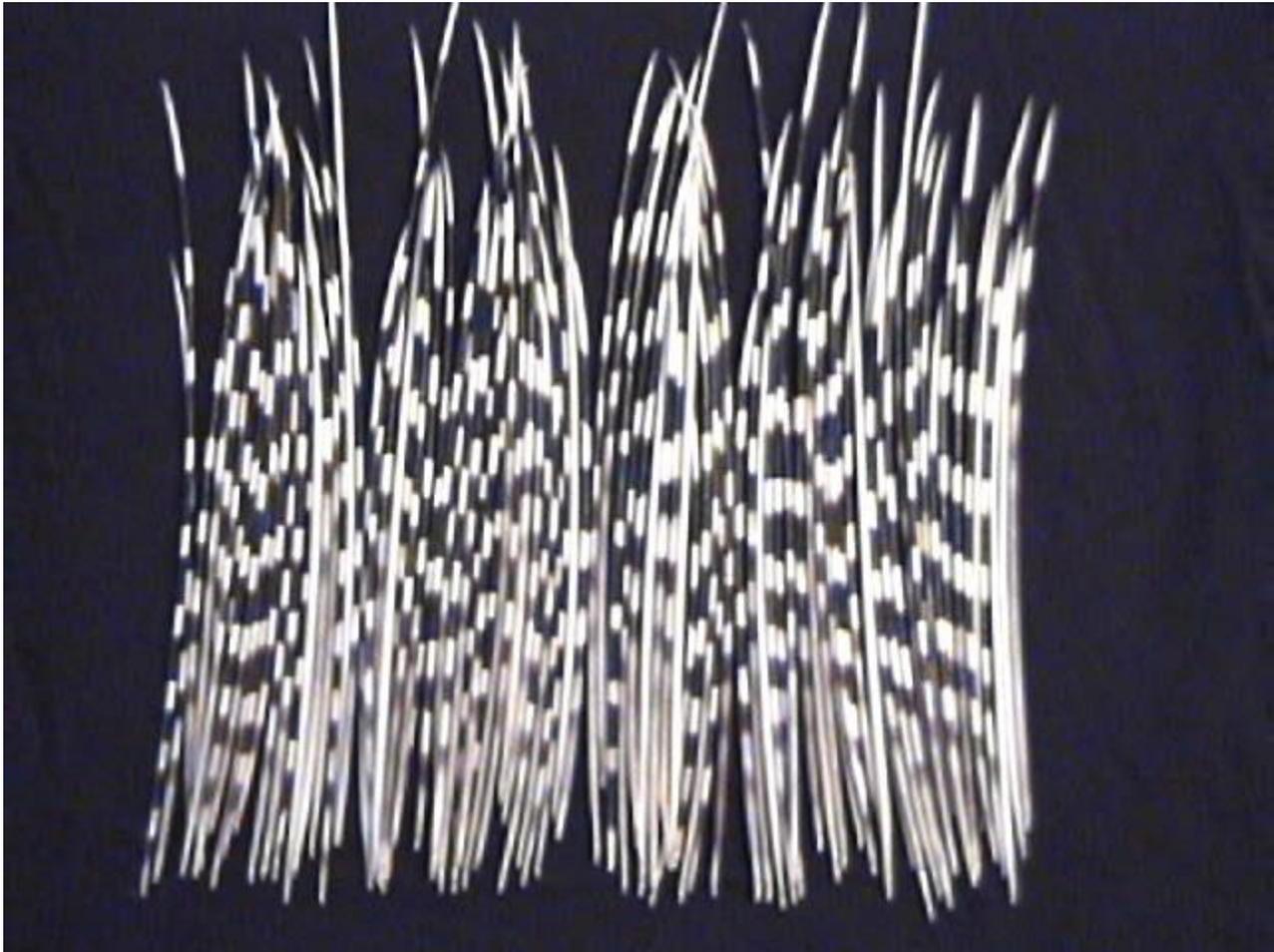
Amy Hodel Weber engaged cheerfully with life until her last days. She was interested in local, national, and concern for future generations -and the environment which would be left to them - was deep and genuine and influenced her work as a writer and poet. She was an active member of Friends Meetings in Haddonfield and Crosswicks, NJ, and in State College, PA.

Amy Hodel was born on May 20, 1920 at Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey, daughter of Amelia Holer Hodel and Jacob Hodel. Amelia and Jacob were both the children of Swiss immigrants, who met at a gathering of a Swiss singing society in New York City, and Amy always took great pride in her Swiss ancestry.

After graduating from Milburn High School in 1937, Amy followed her two sisters, Florence and Ethel, to Wellesley College, where she earned a B.A. in English Literature, Class of 1941. After working as a sales clerk, news reporter and secretary in Princeton, New Jersey, Amy traveled to Madison,



Wisconsin, where she earned 30 credits toward a Master's degree in Sociology at the University. There she met Paul Weber, a PhD student in Plant Pathology; they were married on February 8, 1948, among family and friends.



Paul's first job, with the Wooster Agricultural Experiment Station, took them to Wooster, Ohio, where their first two children were born, Bruce in March of 1950 and Barbara in March of 1952. Paul's job as a geneticist with the Campbell's



Soup Company brought them back to southern New Jersey, where they began attending Haddonfield Friends Meeting. Their son, Jay, was born in September of 1954. Amy mostly stayed home with the children and took occasional substitute teaching jobs until the family moved to Bordentown, New Jersey in 1961, when she began teaching English at Allentown High School. While living in Bordentown, Amy devoted her time to her children, books, and the Crosswicks Friends Meeting. She was also active with the local NAACP. Amy left teaching around 1970 to work for Educational Testing Services in Princeton, NJ, where she was a Research Assistant until she retired in 1984.

After retiring, Amy and Paul moved to Haddonfield to be closer to the Friends Meeting there. They traveled as a couple all over the United States for ten years, helping to organize the Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, which later changed its name to Quaker Earthcare Witness. They also traveled to visit their children and grandchildren as well as touring in Europe. Her affection for her Swiss heritage culminated in a trip to Switzerland with her children and grandchildren and her sister, Ethel. They met with Swiss family members, rode the wonderful Swiss trains, and walked in the Alpine countryside.

In 1995, Paul and Amy moved to Foxdale Village in State College and joined the State College Friends Meeting. Amy was active on the State College Friends Literature Committee and Peace and Social Action Committee, as well as in the local





Tembé Indian Support Group. In addition, she served on the 2003 Planning Committee for Friends General Conference. Amy returned to her love of literature, especially enjoying Penn State extension classes on Shakespeare. She took up creative writing and self-published a mystery story called “The Ghost of Elizabeth Haddon” (which takes place in her beloved Haddonfield Friends Meeting House), and an engaging fictionalized version of her own mother’s life of 88 years, “An Ordinary Woman.” In addition, Amy frequently contributed poems and essays to the Foxdale “Miscellany,” a quarterly publication of Foxdale residents’ stories and poems.

From her earliest years in Maplewood, NJ until her final days in State College, PA, Amy’s life centered on her family. Amy loved her family cheerfully and creatively, referring to weekly errands and grocery shopping as “Uncle Wiggly adventures” after a book character from her childhood, and refreshing herself by splurging on lengthy long-distance phone calls to her sisters. This devotion to family is expressed in her sonnet, “I Talk to Ghosts,” which also embodies the humor with which she met the challenge of living at a distance from her family in her later years.

### I Talk to Ghosts

Although I often mutter to myself, as others do,  
No one knows that I have ghosts around me, too.  
My husband, Paul, is always here, quite near,  
Though I remind myself he cannot hear.



My sister and I still gossip on the phone.  
Without ghosts, I would be terribly alone.  
Sometimes, like a dash of water, cold as ice,  
My mother appears, with sensible advice.  
Others wander in and out, marking trends,  
From childhood playmates to college friends,  
My favorite aunt is here, and relatives I never liked,  
Both kinds appear, just as in real life.  
Without my host of ghosts with whom to chat,  
I would be lost, or talking to my hat.

Amy Weber died at Foxdale Village in State College, PA on January 8, 2014. She is survived by her three children, Bruce Thron-Weber, Barbara Fuller, and Jay Weber, and their spouses, and by her seven grandchildren, Matt Fuller, Andrea Geiger, Risa Wolff, Katya Thronweber, Elizabeth Weber, Joseph Galen Weber and Zachary Eleazar Weber as well as two great-granddaughters, Gwen Geiger and Jesse Wolff. She will be missed by all who knew her.

FCNL Conference Report: James Bradley gave a report about attending his first Friends Conference. He stated that his first task was to lobby with Glenn Thompson regarding FCNL concerns. Though a daunting task, he was able to develop rapport with Glenn Thompson, who showed a genuine interest in speaking with him. James expressed concern that stories of collaboration between republican and democratic politicians are rarely told and desire to see more of this type of news.



James encouraged us all to meet with Glenn Thompson if we have the opportunity. In addition, the FCNL conference focused on encouraging younger people get involved in FCNL.

Use of Meeting House Request: Selden Smith reported that he had received a request from member, Kira Wilson, for a group of her associates from Princeton, NJ and her to use the Meeting House for Thon weekend, as they will be studying/monitoring Thon. It was approved for them to use the Meetinghouse as long as a currently active member is present at all times. Selden was authorized to work out a discounted payment for use of the Meeting with Kira and our secretary.

Friends School Report:

Dan Hendey reported the school had experienced its first death of an alumnus. In the past week a former student died of an accidental overdose, so school staff worked to provide support to the family. Other items included:

1. Friday, February 7, 2014 each class will host a Quaker visitor from our Meeting so they have the opportunity to ask questions.
2. The school is still awaiting the results of the Friends Council of Education report, which is to follow their visit that occurred in December.
3. The school just completed the King of Montgomery play and worship at our Meeting House on MLK, Jr day.
4. This is the open enrollment season for the school, and friends are encouraged to take advantage of the open houses and free play days offered this winter.



January, 2014 business meeting minutes were approved.

The next meeting for worship with attention to business is scheduled for March 2, 2014.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kerry Wiessmann





## The Porcupine

*Any hound a porcupine nudges  
Can't be blamed for harboring grudges.  
I know one hound that laughed all winter  
At a porcupine that sat on a splinter.*

*Ogden Nash*



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**RETURN REQUESTED**