



FRIENDLY CONNECTIONS

State College Friends Meeting

**JUNE 2014
Newsletter**



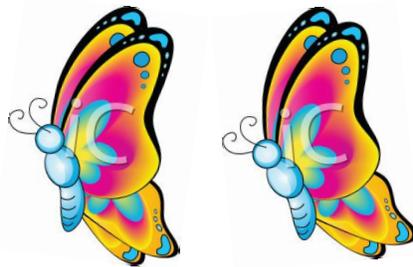
*State College Friends Meeting
611 East Prospect Ave.
State College, PA 16801
Phone (814) 237-7051*



A Message from your Editors

June is the Sixth Month of the year; are we halfway done with this year or halfway towards the goal of finishing what we started? Spring came late to State College, but summer seems to be right on time. The beauty of spring surely lies in the colors that saturate the world: the greens, the whites, the blues, the reds.....does anything suggest infinity and peace more strongly than the clouds against the limpid sky of early June?

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We hope that you enjoy this issue of the Newsletter and, as always, invite YOUR contributions to the next issue!

Please note that last month's picture in the Newsletter of MFW at the State College Friends School was taken by Elizabeth Pennock.

Please continue to send news items, announcements, and comments to SCFMnewsletter@gmail.com

Your Editors,
Marianne Stevens and Deryn Verity



Announcements

June's potluck will be hosted by Religious Education.

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Do you have a sewing or knitting project you are working on? Or just want to hang out with other folks who sew or quilt? Friends will be gathering from 1-3:00 pm on First Day, June 1st, in the social room to sew or knit together. All levels of experience are welcome. Bring finished or current projects or just your interest. Questions? Contact Jessica Arends at jessica.arends@gmail.com.



Notices for the weekly Bulletin should be sent to the office by Thursday, 5:00 pm to this email address: office@statecollegefriends.org or by phone to 814-237-7051.



Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Meetings for Worship

Home and Family

Do you make your home a place of affection where God's presence is felt? Do you practice family prayer? Do you share

QUERIES

your deepest beliefs and interests with all in the family? Do you grow together through sharing prosperity and adversity? Can you keep a sense of humor and avoid taking yourself

too seriously? Do you establish family standards including the mutual obligations of children and adults?

Are you as children learning to be accountable for your own actions? Do you as parents help your children to grow in independence and responsibility? Do you consider the needs of grandparents and older members of the family circle?

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

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? Do I examine myself for aspects of prejudice that may be buried, including beliefs that seem to justify biases based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, class, and feelings of inferiority or superiority?

What am I doing to help overcome the contemporary effects of past and present oppression?

Am I teaching my children, and do I show through my way of living, that love of God includes affirming the equality of people, treating others with dignity and respect, and seeking to recognize and address that of God within every person?



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Viewpoint from the Religious Left Banke¹
by Fred Binkley:
A Taste of Poetry

Capella Streetlamp (Written on a Sunday morning in May, 1968)

Fine, bustling party confused inside the door of shallowness; as
my ragged brain refused and went out to talk with the streetlight
that shines bright
on the green pine as its rays lean toward the sky
to tell me of this life of mine that's grown so cold and dry.

And i ask the streetlamp to show me just how I got this way
and how to understand victory that they say's gonna come one
day.

The streetlight scans the sky for a clue to figure out my destiny
and whether or not to ask the blue about understanding biblical
history
that shows the light as to what to do and where to go.

The streetlight walks around the milky black
searching for Capella, my dream star of awhile back,
in order to find an answer for me to put under my umbrella.
The streetlight came back and said that the dream stars refuse to
talk
because you're not sentimental, and they balk at being
instrumental
in the solution of your intensive problem which racks your
senses.

After this particular quest, the streetlight seems depressed



as it climbs back to its place; and then i look up at the holy light
held up by a pole which couldn't reach Capella
to talk about the great secret of the sky to this ragged fellow
who sits here staring at the bulb who tried to intercede the heaven
at quarter-till-eleven on a distracted night when i fled out of sight
to look for the right.

And the streetlight stood still as i held my quill to write the
perfect poem
of infinite knowledge. The light had no answers, and my quill
was broken
because the streetlight did not have the token to get on the bus
that goes through heaven – it just turns on each night at half past
seven and shines through the windows
of the tenement houses and on the quiet concrete of the side street
forlorn
and then turns off the next morn' and waits for the next night.

And the streetlight just stands there in silence and don't answer
my question,
but yet seems kind of strange in this present reflection
to think that the streetlamp is the prince of peace and solitude
that quiets the night
and causes me to gaze blankly at the sight layed out before my
eyes in the distance
as the light glistens – and suddenly, i don't think, i just listen
to the streetlight of Capella who tells me the truth
with its flicker of freedom – and i drop my umbrella.

¹ 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.



THINKING ABOUT RACE (June 2014) – The Housing Market Penalizes Integration

From an article by Dorothy Brown, Professor of tax law at Emory University Law School, “How Home Ownership Keeps Blacks Poorer Than Whites,” in Forbes Magazine, December 10, 2012:

“Research shows that homes in majority black neighborhoods do not appreciate as much as homes in overwhelmingly white neighborhoods. This appreciation gap begins whenever a neighborhood is more than 10% black, and it increases right along with the percentage of black homeowners. Yet most blacks decide to live in majority minority neighborhoods, while most whites live in overwhelmingly white neighborhoods.

“If you think not race, you 2001 Brookings showed that minority had less home of income than



this is class and are wrong. A Institution study “wealthy neighborhoods value per dollar wealthy white

neighborhoods.” The same study concluded that “poor white neighborhoods had more home value per income than poor minority neighborhoods.” The Brookings study was based on a comparison of home values to homeowner incomes in the nation’s 100 largest metropolitan areas, and it found that even when homeowners had similar incomes, black-owned homes were valued at 18% less than white-owned homes.



“Put simply, the market penalizes integration: The higher the percentage of blacks in the neighborhood, the less the home is worth, even when researchers control for age, social class, household structure, and geography.”

The Baltimore-Area Working Group on Racism usually meets 7 – 9 pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month in the Stony Run dining room. We consider issues around racial justice, share personal experiences, and plan and host special events. All are welcome to attend.





Two photographs of the "Right Sharing Lunch" on May 4, 2014, courtesy of the photographer, Elizabeth Pennock:



Friends await lunch, prepared by the High School students seen in this picture.

Friends inspect their 'assignments' before eating.





State College Friends Meeting For Worship for Business Minutes

Fifth month four, 2014

Meeting opened with silence at 9:00. Queries from both BYM and PYM were read by Selden Smith. The agenda was approved by Friends.

Care & Concern

Dorothy Habecker reported for the committee:

Luke Plowden has been recommended for membership. Friends approved Luke's membership with pleasure.

The Misangii family had a clearness meeting for membership for Becky, Hannah and Vilmos, and requested associate membership for their two younger children. Care and Concern committee recommends acceptance of their request.

Audrey Lumley Sapanski requested clearness for marriage; a committee will meet soon.

Care and Concern is working with Building and Grounds and Finance to be good landlords to Lawrence Jones, our longtime renter and grounds keeper. They also continue to support Religious Education and are helping with the transition of clerkship.

Draft #14 of the Youth Membership policy is brought forward for consideration with two additions added last month; these additions and a new sentence were read. The new sentence which is added to the end of policy 10 reads... "The basis for implementation is current criteria for membership of both BYM and PYM Faith and Practice." Friends approved the policy with these additions.

The Meeting minutes appreciation of Care and Concern for their work on the membership policy.



Finance

Kerry Weissmann reported for the committee:

Solar panels are recommended by Finance, Care and Concern and Religious Education as the first use of the Tuttle funds. We have a set of estimates that puts the cost of solar panels somewhere between \$20-30,000. We do not yet have a cost/value analysis but should receive one soon. All of the other projects suggested for these funds so far, could also use existing funds.

With business meeting's approval for this project, we could authorize Building and Grounds to get three bids for the project and they could bring a recommendation for Meeting's approval when they have one. Let us be clear that this approval does not commit us to any dollar amount, but it does commit us to doing the project as long as it is within the \$20-30,000 range that we currently believe it will cost, and the cost/value analysis indicates a long-term value in this investment. Friends approved moving forward on the solar panels by looking at 3 bids for the project. Finance committee recommends that we approve conference funds for four people who have requested support to go to FGC. Each of the participants would receive between \$321 and \$500 to go to FGC and the pre-FGC Quakers in Business Forum. Our current budget only has \$700 for conferences, so an additional \$476 would come from the Ferguson fund for religious education. Friends approved this use of funds.

A parent requested money for her child to go to BYM summer camp. We recommend \$400 BYM camp scholarship for Nina Querry Congalves, with understanding that Aileen can request the remaining \$425 from BYM camping fund. This would need to come out of the Ferguson Fund for religious education. Friends approved this use of funds.

Friends School requested \$500 to run a parent reading group to read the Quaker Way or similar text under the leadership of a



Quaker. We recommend that we approve this provided that Friends Meeting members and attenders may attend. These funds would likewise be taken from the Ferguson fund. Friends approved this use of funds.

This is a total of \$2431 for conferences, camping and other religious education, with \$1731 to come from the Ferguson Fund. We may discuss these altogether or separately.

We are aware that IHS is in need of funds at this time, because of the long winter, and Friends are encouraged to make a contribution at this time. We will take up the issue of whether we need to make a corporate contribution to them at our next meeting.

Religious Education

Cy diVries reported for the committee:

Teachers met to plan Winter and Spring activities. Meeting and FDS were well attended at Friends School. The trip to Shavers Creek for Earth Day was a success. Sixth month first day will be the last day of FDS for this year; we will end with ice cream sundaes.

Cy thanked all of the teachers and support people of Religious Education for their help and support while she was clerk. Cy announced cheerfully that while she will continue to teach in the coming year, Sam Findley and Becky Misangii will take over the clerking of this committee.

Friends Minute appreciation to Cy for all her work in Religious Education.

Advancement & Outreach

Polly Dunn reported the following:

A permanent notice is now posted on the outside bulletin board listing Meeting for Worship and FDS hours. There is room for



individual, time-sensitive notices below the permanent one. A&O has printed committee labels to highlight their information. The labels can be kept in committee mailboxes. Be sure to remove notices that are no longer current.

Building & Grounds

Larry Greenleaf reported the following:

The committee held the Annual Spring Clean Up on April 19th. In attendance were David Jeffreys, Lance Lehman Kersey Bradley and Larry Greenleaf. The day was spent “sprucing” up around the parking lot and the front of the building as well as straightening up the Friendly Woods. It was certainly a gift of love by everyone involved and a very productive day.

Plans were discussed and approved to purchase native varieties of small- to medium-sized plants to be planted in and around the existing hemlocks along the parking lot. In addition, there will be new plants along the fence between the park and Education wing. We thank Doroty Habecker for her effort in making this happen.

The Building and Grounds Committee meetings are held on the second Monday of the month. The next scheduled meeting is Monday May 12 at 6:30 P.M. in the social room of the Meetinghouse. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The agenda for the next meeting will include: 1> Future clean-up projects. 2> Update on current projects, including, but not limited to, Solar cells, replacement of the front entry concrete and exploring our options for keeping the garden-level area dry.

Friends School

Dan Hendey reported the following:



Fun Fair had a good turn out and the funds raised will be used for scholarships. Enrollment for next year is down, especially in the K-1 class. Teacher Nick is leaving for a new position in Colorado; he will be missed in the community.

Correspondence

Out of the Cold asked for a liaison; Laurie Jeffreys offered to do this and Ellen Arginteanu was suggested as a second.

UBB asked for cosponsors for a program with Peter Toscano; Kerry Wiessmann has offered to do this. Friends asked for more information toward supporting this.

Fred Binkley has taken on 3 pen pal requests from prisoners.

April Minutes were approved.

Next Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business will be sixth month, one. Heidi Loomis will record in Peg Hansen's absence.

Meeting closed with silence.

Attending;

Kerry Wiessmann, Larry Greenleaf, Polly Dunn, Laurie Jeffereys, Roger Way, Mary Way, Ann Sidone, Elizabeth Pennock, Sam Findley, Margie Frysinger, Cy deVries, Dorothy Habecker, Martin Melville, Kersey Bradley, Yuri Plowden, Susan Knox, Darlene Clark, Renee Crauder, Dan Hendey, Becky Misangii, Selden Smith, Peg Hansen

Respectfully submitted,
Peg Hansen recording clerk
Selden Smith clerk





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