



# FRIENDLY CONNECTIONS

**State College Friends Meeting**

**JULY 2014  
Newsletter**



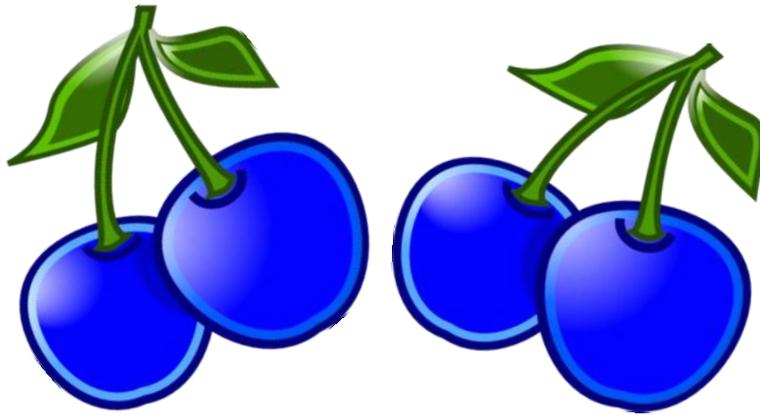
*State College Friends Meeting  
611 East Prospect Ave.  
State College, PA 16801  
Phone (814) 237-7051*



## A Message from your Editors

July is when summer can no longer be denied, or delayed. Every warm evening replenishes our reserves for those long cold winter nights ahead. We have time and energy to enjoy the fruits of our labors, and at the same time, a bit of extra time to enjoy a break from those labors.

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We are happy to report that more Friends are beginning to send contributions our way. As you enjoy this issue of the Newsletter please think about what YOUR contribution might be to the next issue!

Please note: there will be no August issue of the Newsletter. Queries & announcements for July & August have been included in this month's issue.

Please continue to send news items, announcements, and comments to [SCFMnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:SCFMnewsletter@gmail.com)

Your Editors,  
Marianne Stevens and Deryn Verity



## Announcements

🍓 Potlucks during July and August will be hosted by volunteers.



🍓 Mid-Week Meeting for Worship at Foxdale has been laid down. State College Friends School Friday morning meeting is out for the summer.

🍓 **Invitation:** Grace and Doug Miller, longtime former members who now live in York County, plan to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this summer with a Meeting for Worship for celebration and thanksgiving. It will be held at the State College Friends Meeting at 2:00 on Saturday, July 5. A reception will follow. Doug and Grace would like to invite any members or attenders to attend and share in their celebration. In order to plan the reception numbers, please contact them at email address is [ddm8@psu.edu](mailto:ddm8@psu.edu)

🍓 A reminder from Michael Grutzeck & the Finance Committee: To date, the Meeting is experiencing a slowdown in rates of giving. Summer is normally a slow period for donations, but if it is at all possible to donate a little now it would be very helpful in managing our budget payments. Thank you.

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



## Baltimore Yearly Meeting

### **July:** *Caring for Others*

Do you respect that of God in every person? Do you search yourself for and strive to eliminate prejudices such as those related to race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation and economic condition? In what ways do you accept and appreciate differences among your friends and associates? Do you avoid exploiting or manipulating others to accomplish ends, however worthy?

### *QUERIES*

### **August:** *Outreach*

Do you, as the way opens, share Friends' principles with non-Friends? Do you witness to your Quaker faith by letting your life speak? Do you make non-Friends welcome in your meetings for worship? Do you find ways to encourage their continued attendance?

## Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

### **July:** *Social Responsibility and Witness*

How does our Meeting work:

- to overcome social, legal, economic, and political injustices, locally and in the wider world?
- for the funding of community services that does not rely on gaming income?

Does our Meeting serve the community through action on concerns for civic improvement? What actions are we taking to assure everyone equal access to education, health care, legal services, housing, and employment as well as equal opportunities in business and in the professions?



When a member has lifted up a concern, how does our Meeting respond?

Does our Meeting encourage those seeking clearness for their convictions of conscience to hold up such convictions with prayerful openness to the Light?

Am I mindful of how my lifestyle and my investments can contribute to the improvement of the human condition, or to the exploitation of others?

Am I open to seeking clearness on matters of conscience and to assisting others in doing so? How do I respond and support one who acts out of a clear leading when I am under the weight of another?

What am I doing to work for the betterment of my community to assure the maintenance of effective public services which do not rely on funding from gaming?

Do I fulfill my civic responsibilities when they do not conflict with divine leadings?

**August:** *Peace*

How does our Meeting act to advance peace, to oppose violence, and to support the constructive use of authority in our community, our nation, and the world?

What are we doing as a Meeting

- to free our nation from militarization, so evident in our society and in its economy?

- to understand the causes of war and violence and to work for the development of the attitudes and institutions of peace?

- to recognize and correct the causes of violence within our communities, and to work toward overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?

- to increase the understanding and use of nonviolent approaches for the resolution of conflicts?

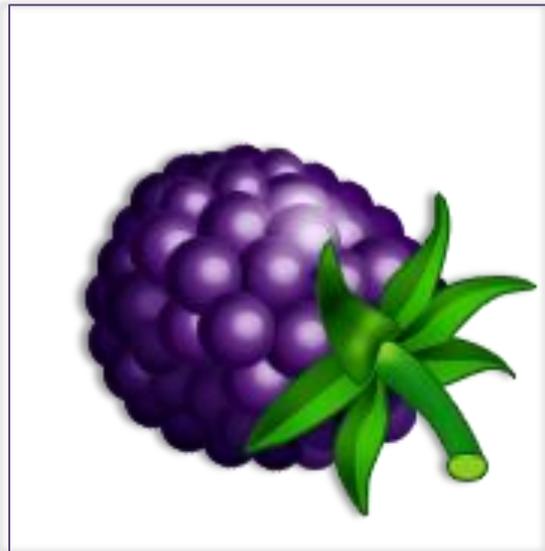


Do I live in the power of that Life and Spirit that takes away the occasion of all wars?

How do I maintain Friends' testimony that military training and all participation in war and its preparation are inconsistent with the teaching and the spirit of Christ?

Do I work for the establishment of alternative ways of settling disputes? Am I aware that to build a world community requires that we all face our differences honestly, openly, and in trust?

Do I treat conflict as an opportunity for growth, and address it with careful attention? Do I seek to recognize and respect the Divine in those with whom I have a basic disagreement? Do I look for ways to reaffirm in action and attitude my love for the one with whom I am in conflict?





## PYM Annual Sessions

*From Arthur M. Larrabee, General Secretary, PYM:*

PYM Yearly Meeting opens Wednesday evening, July 23 and continues through Sunday, July 27, 2014. This year it will be a joy to return to a familiar location, Muhlenberg College in Allentown. Please join me and Friends from throughout our yearly meeting as we gather together for spiritual nourishment, community, meaningful engagement in corporate discernment, opportunities that challenge us, enrichment of our faith journeys, and fun!

These will be my last Annual Sessions as General Secretary and I look forward to welcoming our new General Secretary, Christie Duncan-Tessmer. Our keynote speaker, Peterson Toscano, will invigorate and inspire us in his presence throughout the week and in his address on Saturday evening, July 26. As always, I look forward to the energy of the children and youth who will be present with us and will also enjoy experiences of Quakerism in their own age-specific programs.

Online registration is open until June 30 for those who will stay on campus and for children's and youth programs. Adults who do not require housing may continue to register online or on-site. Plenty of financial aid is available so that attendance is accessible for everyone! All of the details can be found on our website. Please come, whether for all of Annual Sessions, or just a day or two.

Yearly meeting is an opportunity for our community to "cross-pollinate". Our understanding and experience of God is nurtured and enlarged in community. Everyone is enhanced when more of us show up. I hope you will join me this summer.



To learn more and register for the PYM Annual Sessions, visit:  
<http://www.pym.org/annual-sessions-2014>

Contact: Tricia Coscia, Sessions Coordinator, [sessions@pym.org](mailto:sessions@pym.org),  
215 241-7238

Please register by June 30th to reserve housing , apply for financial aid, and for youth programs.

#### WHEN

Wednesday, July 23, 2014 3:00pm - Sunday, July 27, 2014 1:30pm

#### WHERE

Muhlenberg College  
2400 West Chew Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18104 USA





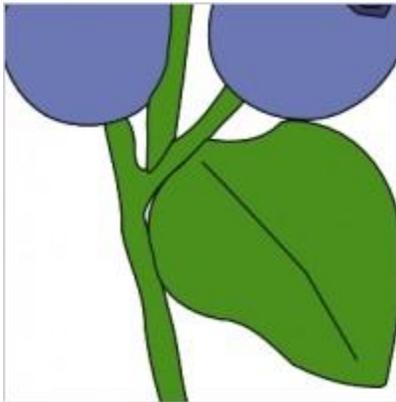
## From the AFSC

What happens behind prison walls should be of great concern to all U.S. taxpayers. Because torture, mass incarceration, and profiting from prisoners are moral outrages – and our consciences call us to action.

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The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate of any country in the world, with over 2.3 million people currently imprisoned. Well over 80,000 people are held in long-term solitary confinement – a practice that is recognized as a form of torture under international law.

Not only does solitary confinement have no rehabilitative effect and do great psychological harm to guards as well as prisoners, but as the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has



documented, it is used in the U.S. as an unconscionable form of strategic control – over people of color, people from poor communities, people affected by mental illness, and those seen as political threats.

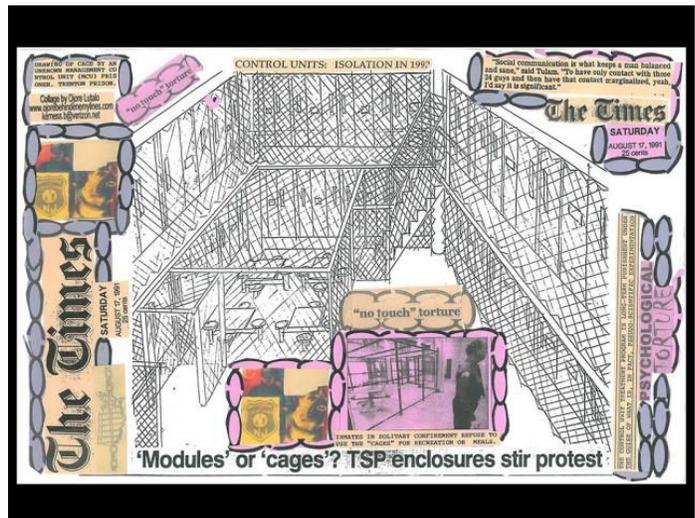
That's why I hope you will listen to the courageous voice of Ojore Lutalo, who spent 28 years in prison, including 22 years in isolation. In prison, Ojore made art, collages that helped him express – and survive – his experiences in solitary confinement. These collages offer a window into the true nature of long-term isolation – how it affects individual prisoners and our society at large.

<http://afsc.org/story/art-surviving-solitary-confinement>



Please view Ojore's collages and share this link widely, so that more people can understand the great injustice that is occurring in our name, wasting billions of our tax dollars in our prisons.

When Ojore was in prison, AFSC supported him, bearing witness to the human rights violations he experienced. It was important to let the system – and Ojore himself – know that he was not alone or invisible. Now he is helping AFSC bring an end to solitary confinement as we work together toward a justice system built on the respect for human dignity that all institutions must uphold.



A DRAWING BY OJORE LUTALO

There is no room for the torture of solitary confinement in a just and peaceful world, and we all have a role to play in eradicating it. AFSC counts on your partnership, whether by documenting the realities of mass imprisonment or by helping friends and family understand the power of restorative and healing alternatives to our abusive prisons. We are in this together, and together we can make a difference.

Thank you for your support, and for sharing Ojore's slideshow with others.

In peace,  
Shan Cretin

p.s. At [afsc.org/solitary](http://afsc.org/solitary), you can learn more about solitary confinement, its effects, and the politics of isolation in the United States.



## Viewpoint from the Religious Left Banke by Fred Binkley

### Thinking and Feeling

How many of you are old enough to remember Dragnet from the 1950's and 60's? I remember that Sargent Joe Friday (Jack Webb) had two different sidekicks during the series, the latter becoming Colonel Potter on Mash during the 1970's. I especially remember one episode of Dragnet where this woman's house had been robbed, and she incessantly spilled her guts out about how upset she was and how this made her feel. Both officers kept trying to calm her down but she kept on telling them how this robbery made her feel. Finally, Joe Friday said, "Just the facts, ma'am" and explained that her feelings would not help them find out who broke into her house.

Isn't the same really the case with religious truth? Do you think that your feelings will help you find God and/or spiritual truth? Don't be so sure! Human feelings can range from jealousy to guilt to anger to hate to envy to sour grapes as well as those nobler feelings of love, pity, empathy, and joy. Who says that feelings or one's "heart" is the key to religious truth? What ever happened to evidence, reason, history, science, logic, and facts? Did left brain thinking go out of style in 1980's America? Even at the community college in WV where I used to teach, I recall lots of talk from the administration about critical thinking but precious few examples from them or anyone else that actually demonstrated critical thinking. Jesus didn't walk on water because I feel that he did! If he did at all, then someone has lots of





explaining to do why God, who created the laws of science, including gravity, would break that very law just to “prove” that Jesus was God. Is that what God is really like – capricious and arbitrary? Do you think when you read the Bible or do you use it as a feel-good devotional?

Do facts even matter anymore in modern life or do we just want everyone to feel good and live in denial? Does feeling good help the skid-row alcoholic to get it together and claim his life back? Another bottle of whiskey makes him feel better than anything else does. Will one more bourbon make him feel so good that he sees the light and decides to stop drinking, clean up, and get a job? Of course it will not because he’s in denial. That is a fact.

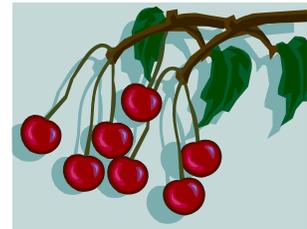
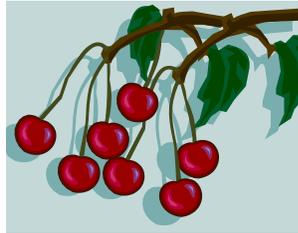
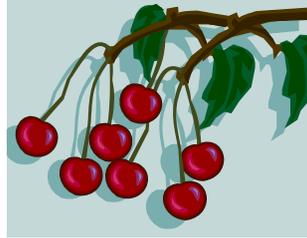


Facts are often unpleasant to face. The truth hurts. I have found that it is better to face the unpleasant truth now, however, than to continue living in denial about something. This applies to politics and religion as well as alcohol and drugs. There is way too much feel good religion in modern times, especially the kind that glorifies money, prestige, and social status. That is not what

Jesus or early Friends were all about. Jesus told people that they would be rebuked, thrown in prison, beaten, and even killed if they followed him. Some early Friends would visit other churches, testify against the preacher in the middle of his sermon, and get thrown out by the ushers. They did it as a testimony against hypocrisy. That is not feel good religion. That is the real gospel. Is there any religion like that still around these days or do we just remain silent and let everyone feel good in denial? Shall we have another drink in the fact free zone of denial? What’s that, Joe? “Just the facts, ma’am”.



**Note:** Now that everyone knows that the Left Banke was the name of a mid-1960's folk rock group (among other historical things), I'm not footnoting it anymore - Rand Paul just fainted!





## THINKING ABOUT RACE

### Wishing away racial inequality?

**(Summer 2014)**

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Justice Sonia Sotomayor's fierce defense of affirmative action efforts such as the ones that helped move her from a Bronx housing project to the upper echelons of American law found renewed voice (in *Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action*, April 22, 2014) in an impassioned dissent that accused colleagues of trying to "wish away" racial inequality - and drew a tart response from Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.... The court's first Latina justice directly took on Roberts's view that the nation's continued reliance on racial classifications hinders rather than promotes the goal of a color-blind society... She said, "This refusal to accept the stark reality that race matters is regrettable. The way to stop discrimination is to speak openly and candidly about race, and to apply the Constitution with eyes open to the unfortunate effects of centuries of racial discrimination." ...she said her colleagues ignored "the importance of diversity in institutions of higher education" and the decision "reveals how little my colleagues understand about the reality of race in America."

From "Sotomayor accuses colleagues of trying to 'wish away' racial inequality", by Robert Barnes, *The Washington Post*, April 22, 2014. Note: Only Justice Ginsburg supported her dissent.

*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.*



Submitted by a Friend:

## **Money = Freedom** *by Joshua Makufka*

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I've always been a saver. I had over two hundred dollars in a piggy bank when I was 12 years old that I saved from birthday parties, holidays, and allowances.

When I was 15, I got my first job. I saved all of my money, and I was the first of my friends to have a car. I had more freedom than anyone my age.

I learned early on that money = freedom. And the freedom it gives can be very spiritual as well, teaching us not to be dependent, but independent.

We just voted to raise our own taxes. There is nothing on this planet that makes a person less free than government and taxes. (They do - after all - take almost half of our income and make all of the 'laws' we have to follow.)

Can you imagine if, instead of having to pay \$13,000 out of my \$32,000 in income last year in taxes, I only had to pay \$8,000? How much more free would I be? Now apply this to your own life. Think what you could do if you had that money to use for your children, yourselves, or your family and friends. And we voted to raise taxes!

What would the founders of our country say to that? What would early Quakers say if they knew how much money the government already takes from us and the way it's spent, wasted,



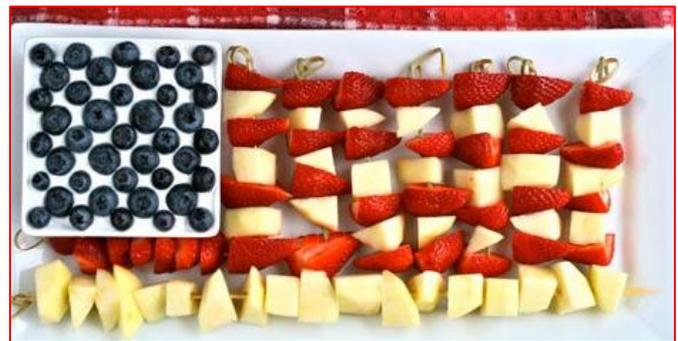
and abused - in many cases being used on things that have nothing to do with the good of the people at all?

They would probably say, with a fresh set of eyes, that we must have some sort of selective amnesia to forget about all of the abuse and corruption that's poisoning our government, and try to steer us clear of any misguided rationalizations that would let us give them even more of our hard-earned income (and freedom). They would probably look at the real solution, which isn't raising taxes, but putting the already enormous amounts of money they take from us to better - and more efficient - use.

Very wise and intelligent people made it a law that the government couldn't raise our taxes more than a certain amount to protect us from extortion - and we willingly bypassed that law and gave them more money!

When we don't hold our leaders accountable, we give them our freedom.

When we sit quietly by as they spend our taxes in (sometimes) the most heinous ways, we give them our freedom.



And when we volunteer to give them even more of our money in taxes - money that we now can't spend on ourselves, our children, or our families - we give them even more of our freedom.

I don't think that's the way it was meant to be. I don't think giving more of our money or freedom will make us more independent. It just doesn't work that way.



## State College Friends Meeting

### Minutes for Sixth-Month First day Meeting for Worship for Business – 1 June 2014

We began with the reading of the queries below, which was followed with worship/sharing.

#### Queries for June

##### 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?

### Baltimore Yearly Meeting: 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 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?

The agenda was reviewed.

### Committee reports

Finance: There was discussion about donating \$1000 to Interfaith Human Services for transitional housing, which is \$500 more than usual. One family requested \$400 in support of their attendance at FGC. It was suggested that this money could come from the Ferguson Fund. In addition, two individuals requested larger sums of money so that they might have financial support to support their leadings. These were the first requests of this sort in many years. Finance Committee sought guidance from Meeting as to how to carry forth this process in general as well as regarding these specific requests. These two letters of request were read and discussed.



Martin Melville requested \$1000 per year for three years to help to fund tuition toward a master's degree at Earlham School of Religion. It was noted that he has already been working with a clearness committee, which has been supportive of his studies. It was noted that Martin's personal religious education strengthens the worship of our wider Meeting. Martin offered to report back to Meeting periodically regarding his progress. The Meeting united in approving Martin's request for \$3000 for tuition payments at \$1000 per year for the next three years, beginning this year.

The second letter was from Campbell Plowden and was read aloud by the clerk. Campbell requested a minute of support as well as financial support of \$3016 to fund an upcoming seven-week trip to Peru to work with the organization he founded, Center for Amazon Community Ecology, CACE. Campbell was affirmed for his work, including the fact that he has continued to do this work independent of the support from governmental offices. Gratitude was expressed to him and to his family for this important service that he provides. Support was given for funding Campbell's request in its entirety with a recommendation that he work with a small support group. A minute of support was drafted by Sam, which reads: "We support Campbell Plowden's mission with CACE, value it as an integral and important part of our own community, and ourselves hold him in the light." Yuri also expressed her appreciation to Meeting for its support of Campbell's work.

There was also discussion about how Meeting might best approach requests like this in the future, procedurally and spiritually. Martin offered to research ways in which other Meetings have handled the process of "releasing" Friends. We



decided to lay this down until the fall. This question will be approached with patience.

Kim Morris gave the Treasurer's Report, which was reviewed and discussed. It was noted that the "Literature Committee" name was changed to "Library Committee". Concern was expressed that our contributions are only at about 25% of budget, although we are half way through the year.

Care and Concern: Implementation of the new youth membership policy has been discussed in this committee. Wholehearted approval was given to the Misangyi family for their recent membership. Aileen, Anne and Martin offered to work on a welcoming committee for the Misangyis. They also reported on a successful welcoming coffee house/talent show for Aileen Querry and Nina Querry-Goncalves. A note of gratitude was given to RE for coordinating such a wonderful and fun event. Aileen expressed gratitude to the Meeting and especially to Karen Anderson and Kerry Weissman for their efforts in planning and preparing for the gathering.

Building and Grounds: Plans were discussed for seeking estimates for improvements to the apartment and for the sidewalk for the main entrance. The proposal from Envinity costing approximately \$30,000 for the addition of solar energy collection panels would save the Meeting approximately \$1000 per year. In addition, it would allow us a much cleaner footprint on the environment. There might be the potential for selling energy back to the power company as well. The committee intends to seek one or more additional estimates. They meet next Monday, June 9 at 6:30 pm. Support and participation is always welcomed and appreciated. Future clean-up projects will be discussed, as well as solar cells, front entry concrete, apartment



renovations, signage and exploration of ways to keep the garden level dry.

The state of the current sign was discussed in that it is part of our public face to the community. It is hoped that by the next monthly meeting we might have an example of new text and design to consider. One Friend spoke of her hope that it will include the phrase, "All are welcome."

There will be a form that will be available soon to everyone where members can leave notes in their mailbox regarding any building- and ground-related suggestions.

Nominating: Gary reviewed the draft for the 2014-2015 committees. Nominating Committee recommends that there be a formal position of "Membership Recorder". The committee is also recommending to lay down Peace and Social Action Committee, given the limited participation in recent years. There was discussion on how to keep this important ministry alive such as by an ad hoc committee or by a joint coordinator. It was decided to lay this down until next month.

Gary also noted that the Personnel Committee is no longer a committee, but rather made up of individual positions. The 2014-2015 committee list was approved with great appreciation.

Advancement and Outreach: Polly Dunn shared a booklet from QuakerQuest, published by FGC, "A Booklet of Learnings from Quaker Quest about Inviting Newcomers into the Life of Our Meetings". They are looking for greeters for June and July.

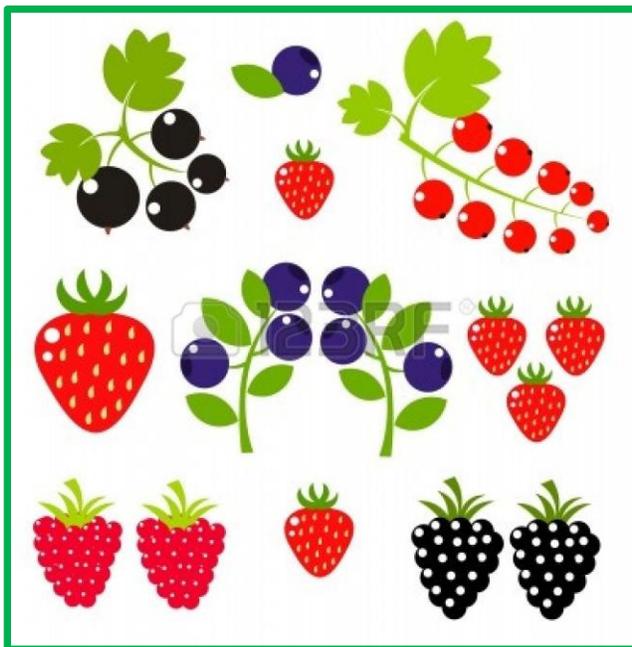
Worship and Ministry: There are two new receivers for the hearing system. The committee plans to revisit this in six months.



If there are any issues, please let Gary know. The date for worship at Foxdale Village this summer will be August 3. Meetings for Worship at the Friends School have gone well. Worship and Ministry suggests that Meetings for Worship, weather permitting, be on the following First Days: June 15, July 13 and August 17.

Friends School: Dan reported that the school graduation would be Tuesday, June 3. The Fun Fair raised nearly \$11,000 this year, which is a record, and for which they are grateful. Dan noted that Anne Sidone and Marianne Stevens have joined the Friends School Board of Trustees and that Gary Fosmire has agreed to be Co-Clerk. Enrollment is down, so he and the staff are looking at ways to address the implications of that reduction in income. Mary Ziegler has announced her retirement effective at the close of the next school year. Polly asked how the school might find someone to carry out the many responsibilities that have

heretofore been cared for by Mary.



Selden asked which members might be planning to attend FGC, PYM Annual Sessions and BYM Annual Sessions this year.

The minutes from May 2014 were reviewed and accepted. A correction was noted on the proper spelling of David Goncalves.

Next month's Meeting for Worship for Business will be on July 20, 2014.



### Upcoming Events:

We are hosting BYM Interim Meeting, June 21-22.

FGC Gathering at California, Pa., June 29 to July 5.

PYM Annual Sessions July 23-27.

BYM Gathering, Aug. 4-10.

Closing worship

Respectfully Submitted,  
Heidi Loomis

Present: Larry Greenleaf, Renee Crauder, Gary Fosmire, Ann Sidone, Deryn Verity, Connie Wheeler, Becky Misangyi, Brosi Bradley, Kersey Bradley, Cynthia Merriwether-deVries, Claudia Wilson, Lynne Grutzeck, Michael Grutzeck, Martin Melville, Mary Way, Kim Kelmor, Sam Findley, Melady Kehm, Polly Dunn, Dorothy Habecker, Aileen Querry, Heidi Loomis, Selden Smith, Dan Hendey



### Frugalitie

2 cups berries of your choice

2/3 cup sour cream (or Greek yoghurt)

2 T. brown sugar (dark or light)

Preheat broiler. Put berries in a shallow *BROILER SAFE* 1-quart dish. Spread/Dollop with sour cream or yoghurt. Sprinkle brown sugar evenly over the dish. Run the dish under the broiler until the sugar just starts to caramelize; *WATCH CAREFULLY*.

Eat at once.



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**RETURN REQUESTED**