

# FRIENDLY CONNECTIONS

State College Friends Meeting  
November 2014  
Newsletter



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

## Announcements

Meeting for Worship with concern for Business will be held First Day (Sunday), November 2, at 9:00am. An informal potluck lunch will follow Meeting for Worship.

Bringing our Differences into the Light" workshop November 16, 1:00-3:30. Today's Friends experience the Inner Light in many different ways. Some find deep meaning in the traditional Christ-centered interpretation, some are nontheistic, and others are theistic but not Christian. In this workshop David Fitz and Erik Hanson will guide us as we talk to one another about our differences and explore the common ground on which our community is built.

Ruth Fitz and Douglas Miller will grace State College Friends Meetinghouse on Friday, November 7 from 7 to 9 pm to lead a singing circle. All are welcome to join in song, hymns, and harmonies. Light refreshments available before and after singing.

Advancement and Outreach encourages members and attenders to wear their name tags if they have one, or to make a new one if they don't have one on the rack. Name tag materials will be set out on the table in the Social Room for the next several weeks, so please help yourself. Alternatively, students in First Day School are offering to make name tags for people who request them. Send a note to Becky Misangyi ([rebeccamisangyi@ymail.com](mailto:rebeccamisangyi@ymail.com)) for your new name tag, produced and personalized by a FDS student.

A&O is looking for one or two people to be Greeters on a regular basis each month. Greeting takes about a half hour, from 10:45 until 11:15. Greeters are welcoming, paying special attention to newcomers by offering information or answering questions. Greeting is a personal, fun, and

important way to connect with everyone who comes to Meeting. See Polly Dunn ([dunnpolly@gmail.com](mailto:dunnpolly@gmail.com)) with any questions.

## Baltimore Yearly Meeting

### *The Social Order*

Do you provide religious education, including study of the Bible and of Friends' history and practices, in your Meeting? Do you ensure that schools under the care of Friends exemplify Friends' principles? Do you support and strive to improve the public schools?

## QUERIES

### Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

#### *Ministry of Outreach*

#### *Outreach*

#### *Stewardship of Resources*

Does our Meeting serve social and economic justice in its uses of property and money?

How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the Meeting's work, its ministry, and the upkeep of its property?

How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?

To what extent does our Meeting rely on current members for financial support, and what role does endowment income serve? Does the Meeting consider carefully the appropriate role of invested funds?

Am I clear that I am the steward, not the owner, of property in my care?

Do I simplify my needs, making choices that balance self-sufficiency (to avoid unnecessary dependence on others) and fair sharing of resources? Do I make choices as a consumer that support the equitable distribution of income?

Do my employment and other activities allow for use of time and energy in spiritual growth and in service to the Religious Society of Friends?

Do I contribute generously within my means to the funding of the work of Friends in my Meeting, in the yearly meeting, and in the wider world of Friends?

## THINKING ABOUT RACE (November 2014) – Within Our Lifetime

“The Within Our Lifetime (WOL) Network brings together organizations and individuals from across the country who have made the bold and audacious commitment to uproot the embedded racial hierarchy in our society and to work toward ending racism within our lifetime.” (See <http://www.withinourlifetime.net> )

During October, the WOL Network held a campaign to raise awareness about the impact of implicit bias and to encourage actions to combat it. Just what is implicit bias? Implicit bias

- “refers to the way people unconsciously and sometimes unwillingly exhibit bias toward other individuals and groups. Many people are not aware of having implicit bias.

- “should not be confused with explicit forms of bias, or racism. Explicit bias, or overt racism, involves conscious and knowing discrimination toward other individuals and groups.

- “can reveal itself in different ways, such as by the words we use to express feelings and behavior toward people of color.

“These unconscious mechanisms are deeply embedded in various aspects of our lives, including health care, education, and our criminal justice system.”

(Adapted from “State of the Science Implicit Bias Review 2013,” Cheryl Staats, of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Ohio State University.

The topic of implicit bias also appeared in April’s Thinking About Race. Here again is the link for the Implicit Bias tests:

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/> Even though it may not be October, you may still participate in this campaign. Efforts to end bias and racism are ongoing!

Note: The Working Group has published a new flyer: “A Quaker Response to Events in Ferguson, MO – What Can I Do?” Look for it on the BYM-RSF website under “Committees, Working Group on Racism.”

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 AFSC:**

Parents of young children detained in prisons because they lack a travel document. Young men of color from their earliest years tracked for prison instead of college. Peaceful demonstrations confronted by police taking to the streets with weapons, helmets, and body armor designed for military forces. The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) works every day with communities and constituents whose lives are defined by these harsh realities.

People who are denied freedom of movement or the chance to earn a living do not know peace. People for whom the police and courts have been a source of harassment and oppression do not know justice. Peace must be built on a foundation of hope, opportunity, and respect for human dignity.

Our country was founded with an aspiration to provide “liberty and justice for all,” but we have settled for institutions in which liberty and justice are privileges reserved for some and denied to others. In our quest for peace, AFSC is compelled to understand – and help transform – dysfunctional political, economic, and social systems. We seek to build a government and a society that see the promise of all people.

It can be hard to see the effects of unjust systems when we don’t personally feel the immediate human impact of injustice – and even harder when we are among those who benefit, however unwillingly or unknowingly. To open the way for peace, we all must be prepared to listen to the people most affected, who have not only met the problems face to face, but have unique insights into the solutions that might be possible.

AFSC engages with communities around the world determined to build a more just and peaceful future, emerging from the ravages of war, poverty, violence and oppression.

One step is to make shared security the basis for U.S. foreign policy. This means ending military and political support for repressive regimes and addressing the underlying causes of longstanding conflicts by nurturing global conditions in which all people can chart their own economic, political, personal, and spiritual future.

A just and peaceful future will require that corporations as well as governments are held accountable for their contributions to systems that perpetuate oppressive systems and exploitative economies.

Over the coming months, you will hear more about AFSC's use of economic activism to hold corporations to account. This includes support for socially responsible investments and economic boycotts of companies contributing to war and violence overseas. We also work to expose the role of for-profit prison companies in lobbying for policies to increase immigrant detention and sustain an ineffective criminal justice system that unjustly targets young men and boys of color.

Thank you for your support and engagement.

In Peace,

## Minutes

SCFM Meeting for Worship with attention to Business

October 5, 2014

Submitted by Darlene Clark

In attendance: Michael Grutzeck, Lynne Grutzeck, Connie Wheeler, Kim Kelmor, Martin Melville, Sue Knox, Dorothy Habecker, Sam Findley, Elizabeth Pennock, Darlene Clark, Selden Smith, Ann Sidone, Gary Fosmire, Mary Way, Roger Way, Kathy Drapco Klein, Kerry Wiessmann, Loretta Jeffries, Larry Greenleaf, Dan Hendey, Rebecca Misangyi, Marjorie Nelson, Heidi Loomis, Polly Dunn, Brosi Bradley, and Ellen Arginteanu.

Selden Smith opened by reading the following:

Queries for Tenth Month 2014 from Baltimore Yearly Meeting:

Minutes: read by Selden Smith to Attendees. The minutes from September business meeting were approved. Kerry was thanked for serving as recording clerk at this meeting.

Peace and Social Action report by individuals relating to P & S Action: Sue Knox joined the PA Prison Society, formed in 1787. She attended the local meeting and joined because they had no Quaker presence in the organization. There are 15 in the group and she was impressed that all were involved in something important. They meet monthly at the County Board meeting which oversees the prisons. Every month, the local chapter provides a local program. Our county has the highest rate of recidivism in the state.

Denise DeGeorge and her husband have been accepted into a program in Ireland for two years to work on restorative justice. They will leave in January.

Ann Ward, a member of our meeting, is working for Christian Aid in Iraq. Marjorie Nelson has reconnected with her and we will remain in contact with her.

RE sent 2 vans of young people to attend the NYC Climate March recently.

Campbell Plowden is attending a team-building workshop at Shaver's Creek to continue to build his facilitation skills for nonviolence.

Kerry Wiessmann would like to create a PFLAG type organization in order to contribute more than the traditional Thanksgiving dinner which we currently sponsor. There will be a mid-winter forum of organizations to share what each is providing to the community.

P & SA is responsible for Potluck for December. We will need reminded that all will need to participate as the committee has been laid down.

Michael Grutzeck will remind Selden and the meeting of this responsibility when the time comes.

Lynne Grutzeck shared that on Friday, December 19 and Saturday, December 20 – SCFM will be responsible for bell ringing at Meyer Dairy.

Finance Committee:

3rd quarter report was shared by Connie Wheeler. All of the Friends Fiduciary balances were added to the report. Margy Frysingers' name on the account will be changed to Connie Wheeler to allow her to make deposits, etc. Contributions to the budget are behind. A letter will be sent to members soon asking folks to donate. Connie asked for \$1500 to be taken from the Ferguson Fund to sponsor the Black Moshannon winter weekend cabins. Friends approved this amount for the weekend. Budget attached.

Worship and Ministry:

Ann Sidone went to BYM to a meeting focusing on Nontheistic and Christocentric content. November 16 (Sunday), we will have a meeting focusing on similarities/differences in our beliefs as a result of this BYM meeting. David Fitz will be our presenter from BYM at the Meeting House after meeting.

Religious Education:

Sam Findley explained use of cabins for the RE Black Moshannon weekend coming up in February. This camping trip started 4 years ago and it has grown every year.

RE took 6 children to the Climate Change March in NYC and sent some folks to the religious group meeting and the rest went to the March beginning on 81st Street.

RE has started the practice of sharing what RE covers in First Day School each week at the rise of meeting. One reason is to make a stronger connection with the meeting, not only for the last 15 minutes of meeting, but following as well. Loretta Jeffries shared appreciation that this is being done.

#### Care and Concern:

Dorothy Habecker asked for general support for Denise DeGeorge for her Ireland trip to January. Denise will be asking for a Clearness Committee meeting followed by a letter of introduction from SCFM to take to Ireland. She will ask Selden Smith for this introduction.

C & C is still following up on the Laurence Jones apt issue and what he may need. They will keep in contact with him.

Campbell Plowden is working with Margy Frysinger on implementing the new Youth Membership Policy. They are reviewing the list of those who are currently affected.

#### Advancement and Outreach:

Polly Dunn noted that the outside bulletin board is being used at the front entrance and she is encouraging folks to update notices on the board by forwarding information to Polly who will post updates. There is also a bulletin board located inside the Social Room for announcements as well. Information from P & S action activities will be posted there as well.

Ann Sidone shared that recent attenders had expressed concern that they did not feel a sense of community here. A & O will review this and try to find ways to improve the sense of community for new attenders. Kerry noted that some meetings appoint mentors to follow up with new attenders to encourage attendance. Selden Smith asked the Greeter on Sundays to be more proactive after meeting to engage with new attenders.

## Building and Grounds:

Larry Greenleaf and Committee met September 8. In attendance, were Kathy Drapco Klein, Gary Fosmire, Michael Grutzeck, Kersey Bradley, Lance Lehman, and Larry Greenleaf. Meetings began and ended with a moment of silence.

Construction has been completed on the apartment including the air handler and the kitchen cabinets.

The following issues/ projects were discussed and assigned to committee members:

Sidewalk and dry basement, Larry: Gutter and downspout to be installed  
Signage, Lance: R.E. class to take on temporary replacement as project.

Solar panels, Kathy: Presentation by Mike Shadow of Sun Directed.

Gutter repair, Gary: 3 estimates received.

Solar Panels: Envinity \$30,000

Sun Directed \$32,190

The next Buildings and Grounds meeting will be held Monday, October 13, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. in the social room.

Added after MFWFB report:

Thanks to Michael Grutzeck and Kersey Bradley for patching the gutter above the apartment that had serious holes in it.

. Folks are having trouble parking b/t the white lines in the parking lot as they are faded. B & G will follow up.

Friends School:

Dan Hendey reported that the school has been running well. They had an all-school field day put on by the middle school students on Friday. Dan serves on the MLK committee at Penn State. The committee is planning a number of events in January which Dan is happy to share. He will keep the meeting informed.

Friends School is looking at how to evaluate branding/crafting their educational message as well as weaknesses of the school. He is working with a professional to lead the School through some of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis). They started

school at 106 students (11 short of last year). SPICES will be held November 16, from 4-7 pm.

Announcements:

After potluck today, Peterson Tuscano will be performing.

Selden had a request from the Mennonites to see if we would like to participate in financially supporting a performance for Listening for Grace, December 6. They would also appreciate having the announcement shared. Kerry suggested that SCFM could also buy a block of tickets.

Heidi Loomis shared that at FGC, a gentleman, Larry Jello, is hired by FGC to help start a program to start financial advising for Quakers. He works with Everance (a Mennonite organization), a socially responsible financial advisor. He is willing to conduct a workshop on socially responsible investing and how to include FGC in their estate planning.

BYM Unity with Nature committee would like a liaison from our monthly meeting. Dorothy Habecker stated that Lynne Heritage has been quite involved with Unity with Nature and perhaps having her share what happens at the meeting, would be ideal as she is so well connected.

Dorothy will continue this conversation with Lynne.

PYM and BYM will have their interim meetings this coming Saturday, October 11.

Selden received a letter from a prisoner, Ryan Richard – Sue Knox will read it to ascertain what the prisoner is asking.

The UNA Dinner will be held October 26 at the Ramada Inn. It is \$30 and sponsorship for students to attend the dinner would be appreciated.

**SPICES of Life Gala**  
**Sunday, November 16, 2014**  
**4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**  
**The Atherton Hotel Ballroom**

The SPICES of Life Gala is one of State College Friends School's signature *friend- and fund-raising* events. This adult social features a delightful array of locally- and lovingly- prepared foods, sparkling beverages and brews, a silent (AND LIVE-new this year! ) auction, music, and time for relaxed conversation. (Back by popular demand: The Little Boutique, a cash and carry selection of vintage and handmade goodies.) The Atherton Hotel Ballroom (made possible through the generosity of a former Friends School family) has provided a lovely backdrop for this early evening event. We hope to see you there!

- Tickets are available at State College Friends School.
- Suggested donation \$40 to \$60/ticket. New school families are offered a complimentary pass for the evening and free child care for those attending the event is available with advance reservation to [scfs@scfriends.org](mailto:scfs@scfriends.org)
- All proceeds from tickets, auction, and boutique benefit the students of Friends School through the Annual Fund.

Thank you to the Atherton Hotel and the many community-minded businesses and individuals who donate their time, goods, and services for this event. And thank you to the volunteers who plan the event, gather donations, decorate, set up, and clean up. Contact Lori Pacchioli for more information. [lorip@scfriends.org](mailto:lorip@scfriends.org)

## **SPICES of Life Gala FAQs we've received in the past:**

**What should we wear?** The SPICES of Life Gala is a *special* celebration. Ask some of our students and they'll tell you *special* means "dress up clothes." While the event is held in the lovely ballroom of the Atherton Hotel, make no mistake: "dress up" in the past has ranged from blue jeans paired with a dapper suede jacket, skirts or slacks with shiny adorned blouses and cozy seasonal sweaters, to more semi-formal evening wear, adorned with child-made or vintage art jewelry... in other words, a broad range. As one mother of an infant told a friend last year, "It's anything without a baby food stain." So wear *special* clothes . . . whatever that means to you.

**How do we pay for auction and boutique items?** You'll find a creative selection of silent and live auction and boutique items ranging from SCFS reusable water bottles and brightly colored T-shirts starting at \$5.00 to a set of Invisaline braces (valued at \$5000) [offered](#) for a minimum bid of \$2500. You'll find student art, jewelry, local honey, catered meals, vacation stays, and more! Boutique items are cash and carry. At the close of bidding, we'll display winning bid identification for auction items. We accept checks, cash, or credit cards at the event. *Please, no holds.*

**Where is the free child care being offered?** We provide supervised, age-appropriate activities at the school while parents are attending the SPICES of Life Gala. This is a complimentary service provided at State College Friends School beginning at 3:45 p.m. Advance reservations are necessary. **To ensure that we have sufficient time to arrange staff, please make reservations for childcare prior to November 12, 2014 by emailing [scfs@scfriends.org](mailto:scfs@scfriends.org).**

**Can I invite friends whose children aren't students at Friends School?** Sure. Everyone's welcome. This is a celebration of our school community, our local community, and all the gifts within. Tickets are available for a suggested sliding scale donation of \$40 to \$60.

**What else are you wondering about?**

Please contact Lori Pacchioli, Director of Development with questions.

[lorip@scfriends.org](mailto:lorip@scfriends.org)

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**RETURN REQUESTED**