

FRIENDLY CONNECTIONS

State College Friends Meeting
December 2015
Newsletter



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

A Note from the Editor

Warm wishes for a happy and peaceful holiday season this year. Enjoy the time you can spend with family and friends!



It has been a pleasure to compile the news and minutes of the meeting throughout the year (though Betsy is always well ahead with her weekly bulletin and that's where you should turn if you want up-to-the-minute news!)

I hope that the Newsletter has been a useful contribution to the community of Friends.

Thanks to everyone for your support and the interesting, thought-provoking contributions you submitted over the past three years of my solo and shared Editorship.

This is not exactly a farewell note but as I have announced several times, I would like to welcome a new Editor early in 2016.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and may the new year bring us all peace, health, happiness and joy.

Deryn Verity, Editor

Announcements

Potluck & Refreshments: Peace & Social Action Committee will be responsible for December.

Meeting for Singing will be held at Dancing Bear Farm (Lewisburg) on Sat., Dec. 12. We'll begin with a potluck lunch at noon, followed by all manner of singing and music-making commencing at about 1:00 pm.



Please bring a dish to pass and your instruments, voices, and favorites songs (piano and percussion provided).
More information soon!

<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/upper-susquehanna-quarterly-meeting/pages/about-lewisburg>

The BYM Women's Retreat will be Jan. 29-31, 2016 at a new location, the Pearlstone Center. It is a wonderfully accessible site. It has covered walkways, an elevator in the main building, as well as delicious food. The planning committee is especially looking to invite more Young Friends and women who haven't been before.

<http://bymwomensretreat.wix.com/bymwr>

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

The Environment

Are you concerned for responsible use of natural resources and their nurture for future generations? Do you try to avoid wasteful consumption and pollution? Do you seek to preserve the beauty and balance of God's world?

QUERIES
QUERIES

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Integrity and Simplicity

What does our Meeting understand to be the meaning and implication of our testimonies on simplicity and integrity?

How do our Meeting's actions demonstrate this understanding?

As a Meeting, what are we doing to encourage members to embody integrity and simplicity in their everyday lives?

How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives – in my spiritual journey, my work, and my family responsibilities? How do I manage my commitments so that over-commitment, worry, and stress do not diminish my integrity?

Am I temperate in all things? Am I open to counsel and advice on overindulgence and addictive behavior, such as gambling or drink? Do I take seriously the hazards associated with addictive and mood-altering substances?

Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me? Am I mindful that judicial oaths imply a double standard of truth?

Do I refrain from membership in organizations whose purposes and methods compromise our testimonies?



THINKING ABOUT RACE

December 2015

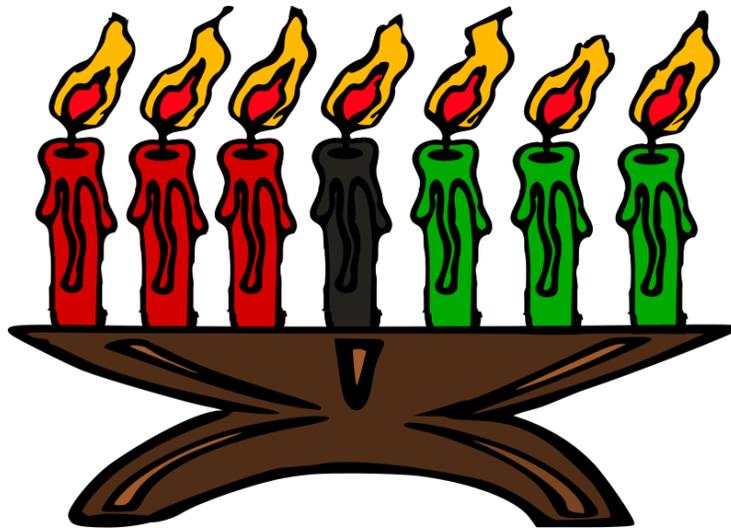
More from *Between the World and Me*, Ta-Nehisi Coates

Ta-Nehisi Coates' recent book, *Between the World and Me*, is written as a letter to his 15-year-old son.

From pages 90-91: "This need to be always on guard was an unmeasured expenditure of energy, the slow siphoning of the essence. It contributed to the fast breakdown of our bodies. So I feared not just the violence of this world but the rules designed to protect you from it, the rules that would have you contort your body to address the block ["the street"], and contort again to be taken seriously by colleagues, and contort again so as not to give the police a reason. All my life I'd heard people tell their black boys and black girls to "be twice as good," which is to say "accept half as much." These words would be spoken with a veneer of religious nobility, as though they evidenced some unspoken quality, some undetected courage, when in fact all they evidenced was the gun to our head and the hand in our pocket. This is how we lose our softness. This is how they steal our right to smile."

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR) and sent to the designated liaisons at each Monthly and Preparative Meeting for publication in their newsletter or other means of dissemination. The WGR

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.



88 Years of Friends in our Community

A personal note by Deryn Verity

On Saturday, Nov. 7th, the Meeting hosted the first State College Friends Meeting Fall Harvest Celebration, *88 Years of Friends in our Community*.

It was a loving, of Friends, our area, and our wider



joyful celebration history in the connections to the community.

Historical, contemporary, and future activity was celebrated and honored. Meeting members produced and prepared a delicious dinner, which was deftly served by young Friends. Friends from Foxdale and pupils from the SC Friends School, families and visitors and guests of all ages and stages of life – I heard an estimate of about 100 people – gathered to eat, talk, sing, and share dinner.

The conversation flowed and rippled, around the tables (named for departed Friends) and around the room, which was seasonally decorated.

Mere words of thanks are hardly enough, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kerry and Dorothy and everyone who labored and organized and served and cooked and played music and sang....besides raising

funds and celebrating our history, this event marked a milestone of commemoration: the number 88 is a particularly auspicious one in many cultures – in many Asian cultures it represents “double happiness” or “double good fortune” and I think it was very appropriate to celebrate this particular anniversary.

Although I was able to stay for only the first two hours or so, I was very moved by the opportunity to share the ancient ritual of a harvest celebration – at the same time a completely modern gathering that included souvenir items, a group photo, and printed name cards!

This note is not intended to report on everything that happened during the occasion; it’s just a personal “thank you” note from one part-time attender. I hope that in the next issue we can print some photographs and notes from other people who attended the dinner.



Minutes for Meeting for Worship for Business State College Friends Meeting

November 1, 2015

After a period of silent worship, Polly Dunn opened Meeting with a reading of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's query on 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?

Friends responded:

The query covers a lot of what it means to be a Quaker. We do very well locally, but not so with the rest of the world, where problems exist that we can't see personally.

We fall short of this ideal, so are we able to forgive ourselves when we don't live up to it?

One could say 'No' to many of the queries--does that make me a bad Quaker, or is doing what one can enough? We can try to stay open to leadings in this direction.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Care and Concern

Darlene Clark reporting.

Care and Concern's Clearness Committee and Gary Fosmire met with Connie Wheeler to discuss her application for Membership. The Committee was happy to recommend approval. Action will be held over for one month as is customary. Connie will be introduced after Meeting in November and Friends are encouraged to take this opportunity to get to know her.

Finance Committee

Kerry Wiessman reporting.

The Celebration of Friends in State College for 88 years is receiving a good response, with over 80 positive responses to date. Plans have been made to have the social room floor cleaned and waxed this week. The Committee could use help removing everything resting on the floor once the voting is done (after 8:00 p.m.) Tuesday, November 3, and replacing everything after the wax is dry, Thursday afternoon. Katy Cleary will be our photographer for the event. A large group photo is planned for 4:30 p.m., so early arrival is important. Appetizers will also be ready at 4:30 p.m.

The Committee would like input on the question of allocation of funds between PYM and BYM. The percent of members belonging to each yearly meeting has changed. BYM asks for a certain amount based on our Meeting size, and other measures. PYM accepts what we have given them. Earlier many more members belonged to PYM than BYM, but this has changed. The issue will be discussed at a future MFWFB.

Treasurer's Report

Connie Wheeler reporting

Connie presented a draft of the 2016 budget that will be considered for approval in December. In light of the two recent murders of women in Centre County, the Finance

Committee has rethought its allocation of funds to charities, and would like to include \$500 for the Women's Resource Centre this year. This was approved. Next year the gift to the Women's Resource Center will be included as a part of the budget.

Because many children request electronic toys or devices for Christmas, the decision was made to give each woman at the Centre a \$50 gift certificate for herself and for each of her children. This will empower her to make choices on this type of toy for her family. The gift cards will be included in a basket with small items (lotion, small doll, etc. depending on age of children)

The budget proposes a drop in funds allocated for gas and electricity next year because of the new solar panels. Additional funds are slated for Deferred Maintenance because of the age of the building.

Friends School Report

Dan Hendey reporting

Friends School requests approval of a change in their bylaws that affects our Nominating Committee. The change is part of an update to School bylaws in progress, and reflects current realities in the School and in Meeting. The request, which follows, was approved.

Bylaws amendment

At the October business meeting of State College Friends Meeting, concern was expressed that, whenever possible, Quakers appointed to the Friends School Board should be

representatives of State College Friends Meeting. The rationale was that the school is under the care of State College Friends Meeting, so the Quakers on the Board should be affiliated with that meeting. Here is a revised section with changes highlighted:

2.03 Selection of Members A majority of the trustees shall be members of the Religious Society of Friends or regular active attenders of a Friends Meeting as affirmed by the Nominating Committee of State College Friends Meeting, and shall be appointed by State College Friends Meeting. A majority of Quaker trustees shall be members or attenders of State College Friends Meeting. Selection of trustees from the Religious Society of Friends will result from consultation between State College Friends Meeting's Nominating Committee and the School's Governance Committee. This consultation will also include appropriate planning to limit the number of additional trustees appointed to the Board so that a Quaker majority is maintained.

Building and Grounds

Larry Greenleaf reporting

The committee met on October 12, 2015 with Cathy Drapcho Klein, Recording Clerk. Attending were Gary Fosmire, Lance Lehman, Cathy Klein, Michael Grutzeck, Gil Morrison, and Larry Greenleaf.

West Penn Power left big ruts behind the education wing when they were connecting the solar. Larry will check

with First Day School and School House to see whether this presents a tripping hazard for the kids.

The committee is responsible for potluck and refreshments in November. Cathy will make a sign-up sheet to share with members of the committee.

Solar Installation

The solar installation passed the final inspection by Centre Region on October 12, and was then put on line. Asa from Envinity will do a walk through with all interested parties after the monitor arrives. The monitor is in the main entry hall, but not yet functioning.

Upkeep and Appearance

Larry updated us that Kerry Weissmann would like to look into having the floor in the Social Room professionally cleaned and waxed before the fundraiser at the end of October. We approved that she arrange doing this, at an estimated cost of \$300-\$500 to strip and wax. She raised the question of having the front doors professionally painted because of the first impression they leave. Michael Grutzeck volunteered that she should contact him and he will ask his handyman to paint the doors. The doors were painted in time for the 88th Celebration.

Gutters

The gutters above the Meeting room storage need to be redone so that the water flows in the right direction. Gil Morrison, who is the contractor for the basement repairs

said those are our responsibility. We decided to wait until the work was done outside to deal with those gutters.

Emergency Lighting in Breezeway

We want to replace the emergency lighting in breezeway between the two buildings. These lights come on only when power goes out. Lance reported Wesco didn't have any light fixtures, but does sell 6 volt LED fixtures. It was decided that Lance will look into 6 volt light fixtures, with trim.

Backpack Leafblower

Gary Foxmire went with our tenant, Lawrence Jones, and bought a new backpack leaf blower at his own expense for snow and leaves. Thank you, Gary.

B & G Meetings: The Buildings and Grounds meetings are held on the second Monday of each month in the social room. Our next meeting is Nov. 9, 2015. Buildings and grounds is in charge of refreshments after Meeting in November. Please join us if you would like to know about what our committee does

Connie Wheeler reported that we need copies of the worker's comp insurance certificate for contractor or sub-contractor working on our property. Dan Hendey will provide a copy of the insurance certificate for the company cleaning the Meeting House. Larry will request certificates from any future contractors working on Meeting property.

Peace and Social Action

Campbell Plowden's report:

Campbell returned early yesterday morning from Peru. Three communities he has been working with agreed to projects which would be funded in part by Center for Amazon Community Ecology sales of their handicrafts. Work parties will plant and maintain plots of *chambira* trees with some of the money. Campbell will return to Peru in February to help one partner community harvest leaves from rosewood trees and distill them into essential oil. Campbell will be offering a variety of hand-made Christmas tree ornaments and other crafts at State College Friends Meeting later in November and December.

Marjorie Nelson's report:

Marjorie has become a member of the PA Prison Official Visitors Society. She has visited the Centre County Correctional Institute once with Sue Knox, but expects to work primarily at the Rockview State Prison. She has toured it once and made one visit with another Visitor to speak with two prisoners there.

Martin Melville's report:

Martin is interviewing loggers around the state and recording their responses. While most podcasts are a single interviewer & interviewee, he hopes to braid stories from many loggers to the same question. The finished podcasts will be posted on his blog.

Cynthia Merriwether deVries's report:

The Huntingdon Chapter of the PA Prison Society facilitated the participation of 18 Juniata College students in the Huntingdon State Correctional Institution "Day of Responsibility". The "Day of Responsibility" is sponsored by the PA Lifers' Association as a means to diminish recidivism for men who are scheduled for release.

Darlene Clark's report:

Many friends attended the recent United Nations 70th Anniversary Celebration at the Ramada Inn. The speaker was very good. Among those attending were Kersey Bradley, Darlene Clark, Gary Fosmire, Margie and Toby Gaffron, Katy and Bob Lumley-Sapanski, and Marjorie Nelson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kerry Wiessmann reported that the PFLAG Thanksgiving dinner will be held at the Meeting house on Monday, November 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting wants Meetings to look at their revised Faith and Practice which is now on line at their web site.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting will have a week-long gathering for high-school aged Friends and attenders starting November 7, 2015.

MINUTES

There were no corrections or additions to the October minutes, and they were accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE

We received a note of appreciation from Ellen and Jules Arginteanu. They were very touched by the effort everyone made to attend the farewell dinner mid-week last summer. Their new address is: 4031 Crutchfield Street, Richmond, VA 23225.

The next Meeting for Worship with a concern for business will be December 6, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta (Laurie) Jeffreys

ATTENDANCE

Brosi Bradley	Michael Hansen
Kersey Bradley	Peg Hansen
Darlene Clark	Dan Hendey
Renee Crauder	Laurie Jeffreys
Polly Dunn	Marjorie Nelson
Cynthia M deVries	Elizabeth Pennock
Gary Fosmire	Campbell Plowden
Larry Greenleaf	Marianne Stevens
Michael Grutzeck	Connie Wheeler
Lynne Grutzeck	Kerry Wiessmann
Mary Haight	

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RETURN REQUESTED