



FRIENDLY CONNECTIONS

State College Friends Meeting

**February 2016
Newsletter**



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

Midwinter Note

From the Editor

Although so far we seem to have dodge most of the snow and extreme cold from last year (much to the dismay of some; myself included), February is indeed a challenging month regardless of how much you enjoy snow. With much appreciation to Marianne and Deryn for all the effort, gifts, and time they have put into the meeting newsletter, I am grateful that I can take my turn at contributing to the meeting for all that it has provided for me. And I'd like to second this minute of appreciation from the meeting: *The Meeting would like to thank Deryn Verity and Marianne Stevens for their years of doing the Meeting newsletter. They did a wonderful job in its presentation and in assisting communication within the Meeting.* As well as add appreciation to Deryn for guidance and detailed notes on editing the newsletter and making it much less intimidating than I first thought.

If your gift includes words, images, or just honest thoughts, please send them to the Newsletter email address:

SCFMNewsletter@gmail.com

With warm wishes for health and safety in this dark, but short! month,

Your editor, Brosi Bradley (And Deryn)

Announcements

February Meeting for Worship for Business will be held on First Day (Sunday), February 7th, 2015

Schedule

9:00 am Meeting for Worship for Business

10:45 am First Day School

10:45 am Gather for Meeting for Worship

11:00 am Meeting for Worship

12:20 pm Potluck



Announcements (cont.)

Sunday Peace Walk

State College's first Palm **Sunday Peace Walk** will create a participatory community event focused on bringing together our diverse Christian community to notice and acknowledge the many organizations in State College who are working for peace by serving the people Jesus called us to serve; the poor, the sick, the isolated, the downtrodden and imprisoned. This 1.5 mile walk starting at 3pm on Sunday, March 20th will begin at a downtown congregation and visit several stops along the way to hear voices share about the work being done in our community and pray for our community's healing. We will end at another congregation for a simple soup meal together. All are welcome to participate in this walk regardless of faith tradition.

Foxdale Meeting for Worship

A **Meeting for Worship** is held at Foxdale every First Day at 10:15 in the Nurses' Conference Room. All are invited. To find the Meeting, enter at the front of the building, turn left to Anthony House, walk through the security door, straight ahead past one hallway on your right. Turn right at the next hallway. The Conference Room is the first room on the left.

SCFM Men's Spiritual Support Group Meeting

The monthly Quaker **men's spiritual support group** will meet Feb. 8, 7:30 pm. Contact: kerseybradley@yahoo.com

Registration for PYM White Privilege Conference

Registration is open for the PYM White Privilege Conference. The conference will be held in Philadelphia, April 14-17. At the called meeting in January of 2015, we converged to affirm our commitment to dismantling racism and white supremacy as a yearly meeting. The White Privilege Conference is a tremendous resource in this our collective effort. Attendees will examine concepts of privilege and oppression and learn solutions and team building strategies toward a more equitable world. All PYM Friends who attend the conference will be asked to bring what they learned back to their communities.

The deadline to receive aid from PYM is Monday, Feb. 15. Because PYM funds are limited, we encourage Friends to register as early as possible. Start the process at:

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/register-2016-white-privilege-conference>

SCFM Winter Camping Weekend

We will have our "Winter Camping Weekend" at Black Moshannon State Park on Friday through Sunday, April 1-3. We have 5 cabins reserved which means we have room for 30 people to stay overnight, and more can come for parts of the weekend.

Please RSVP to Kerry (571-8909 or email kgw11@scasd.org) ASAP, so that cabins can be assigned, and to be sure that we have room for you in a cabin. We want everyone to come who can. The cabins are paid through Religious Education funds, and we hope to have programs enjoyable for all ages.

When we get closer to the time, everyone will have the opportunity to sign up to bring food and drink, as each family or individual takes responsibility for contributions to meal(s). All families bring their own dishes, cooking ware, tableware, napkins, sleeping gear, towels, and personal necessities.

We will follow a similar schedule to the ones we have had in the past, with all meeting games offered by Campbell Plowden, a speaker of interest to adults, baking, indoor games, and outdoor activities, hopefully including a campfire. More to come after a Black Mo planning meeting, date not yet determined.

Hope you can come! Kerry

p.s. Use the form on the below to RSVP if possible. Please give your best guess; if you need to change this later, just let me know.

Family Name:

Number attending:

Names of those attending:

Night(s) you will sleep over: Friday _____ Saturday _____

Dietary needs or restrictions:

Meals you will attend (so we have a count): Friday Soup _____ Saturday
Breakfast _____ Saturday Lunch _____

Saturday Supper _____ Sunday brunch _____

Care & Concern and Program Committees will be responsible for refreshments for February.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Meetings for Business

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?



QUERIES
QUERIES

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

Meetings for Business

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?

THINKING ABOUT RACE (January 2016)

“A Hard Look at How We See Race”

Research shows subconscious connections in people’s minds between black faces and crime, and how those links may pervert justice; law enforcement officers across the country are taking note.” This article describes research by Jennifer Eberhardt, PhD, a professor at Stanford University (and an African-American), reactions to it, and its impact on providing training within law enforcement.

Lorie Fridell, who was head of research for a law enforcement policy group in Washington, D.C., stated: “Key to the training’s appeal is that it treats bias as a common human condition to be recognized and managed, rather than as a deeply offensive personal sin, an approach that makes cops less defensive. ‘They understand that it is a real issue with which they need to deal, but not because the profession is made up of ill-intentioned individuals with explicit biases (e.g., racists), but because the profession is comprised of humans.’”

From “A Hard Look at How We See Race,” by Sam Scott, published in Utne Reader, Winter 2015 (originally published in the September/October 2015 issue of Stanford Magazine) <http://www.utne.com/politics/social-psychology-racial-disparity-zm0z15wzdeh.aspx?PageId=8#ArticleContent>. The BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR) meets most months on the third Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Locations vary to allow access to more Friends. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David Etheridge, david.etheridge@verizon.net.

Minutes from February

STATE COLLEGE FRIENDS MEETING MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS First Month 3rd, 2016

Meeting began with silent worship and a reading of the Queries on Meetings for Worship from Baltimore Yearly Meeting:

Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for Divine guidance? Are Friends encouraged to share spiritual insights? Are special gifts of ministry recognized and encouraged?

Do you come to meeting with heart and mind prepared? Are you careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by late arrival or in other ways?

Responses to the queries included one Friend who wished she were more prepared for Meeting for Worship and another Friend who wondered how you can prepare. An answer to that was “finding a willingness to say ‘yes.’ There is a fear in that, saying yes to what you are asked to do. Another wondered who is asking. Some of it seems to come from yourself but maybe not the self you recognize. Another Friend thought she would do better with preparation if she were not distracted by the needs of the business of the Meeting. Another person proposed that preparing for worship included “walking the talk.” Come prepared by actively living what we believe. Then we can peacefully worship.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Add a report from Advancement and Outreach.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Peace and Social Action

Report by Committee of the Whole.

Lynne Grutzeck announced that Interfaith Human Services raised \$25,000 this holiday season – the most ever! She expressed thanks to the bell ringers.

Claudia Wilson said she has agreed to be the board member for Park Forest Preschool. At some point she will be asking the Meeting to do more for the school. For example, other churches do Christmas packages. She will report more in the future, as she learns more about what we can do.

Campbell Plowden reported he had received a gift from a family member that enabled him to buy clothes for Mujaddid Muhammad. He is going to see him this week.

Kerry Wiessmann announced the LGBT group on campus plans to have a mardi gras Bingo night to help fund the scholarship they give out. It will happen the first Saturday in February. Selden Smith noted that the usual Quaker response to a gambling event is to give money rather than participate.

Polly Dunn announced the Trinity Institute's Free Webinar on "Listen for a Change" (on police violence, mass incarceration & racism) to be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, in State College, from January 21, 6:30 pm through January 23.

Urgent Requests

No one has volunteered to continue the tradition of the Black Moshannon Winter Weekend. Please contact Selden Smith if you would like to coordinate it. (*Editor note: Kerry Wiessmann has graciously volunteered)

A new editor is still needed for our monthly newsletter. Please contact Selden Smith or Polly Dunn. Friends at Foxdale Village (as well as out-of-town Friends) rely on the newsletter to keep in touch with Meeting. Some can receive it electronically but a paper copy is important as well.

Nominating Committee

Selden Smith reported. There have been some recent changes. Claudia Wilson and Darlene Clark will co-clerk Care and Concern Committee. Cy deVries has informed Religious Education that she can no longer contribute as much as she has been (for many years!) and needs to resign from RE. That Committee is very in need of assistance.

One Friend said that she feels very strongly that we need a Personnel Committee, and that should be a priority.

Another Friend queried whether we need to have a called meeting to get more people involved and aware that it is all of our responsibility to have a working meeting. Another Friend agreed and thought we should query ourselves, "What is the business of our Meeting?"

Claudia Wilson said that she and Ann Sidone recently discussed their great concern about the Meeting in general, and the urgency they feel to do something. They developed a possible query: “How can we come together to create a vibrant, nurturing community with shared purpose.”

It was suggested that one problem we face is that the structure of Quaker Meetings is predicated on people having a lot of time, but that is no longer true. We need to rethink how to make a meeting function but have it updated to today's realities.

Another Friend agreed that we should have a called meeting, but how can we be sure that this [those present at Business Meeting] isn't the group that shows up? Ann Sidone, as clerk of Worship and Ministry, said the Committee can talk about it, and recruit volunteers to call people to encourage them to come. There was some discussion whether it is better to describe it as a “crisis” with one person thinking that may help draw others to attend. Another thought it was that we are smaller, and smaller meetings function differently than larger meetings. We have a core group, but we need a positive way forward.

After supporting the idea of the called meeting, one Friend said there is also a sense of priority for Religious Education. We need to continue working with RE, and Care and Concern will be meeting with them next week. We need to take steps with RE before a called meeting and doing Personnel Committee and job descriptions. Another person said she agreed with the called meeting and that since we are fewer in number we can't continue with the committees we have. She would like to get to a number of committees where we can feel successful.

How to include Friends from Foxdale was considered. One suggestion was to have the called meeting at Foxdale; another suggestion was for Foxdale to provide transportation to the meeting.

Since there is already going to be a listening project, it was suggested that perhaps this issue could be included. Others expressed urgency and a preference for doing it more quickly through a called meeting. Another Friend said it would be helpful to have some suggestions on what the Meeting could do, so that people attending the called meeting can react to it.

Selden Smith said that a called meeting is similar to a Meeting for Worship for Business but with a very particular topic. He asked if Friends were in agreement to have a called meeting.

Friends agreed to have a called meeting on the topic of how to function as a smaller Meeting that is a vibrant and nurturing community with shared purpose.

It was suggested that we have food, such as pizza, and childcare. Claudia Wilson, Ann Sidone, Renee Crauder, and Sue Knox will organize the called meeting.

Care and Concern

Polly Dunn reported. Care and Concern had recommended Johanna Jackson for membership last month. Following normal procedures of waiting a month, the Meeting happily accepted Johanna into membership. Groups to welcome both Johanna and Connie Wheeler into membership were requested, and the following people volunteered:

Lynne Grutzeck, Michael Grutzeck, Larry Greenleaf, Kerry Wiessmann, Polly Dunn, and Margy Frysinger are happy to serve for either welcoming. Karen Anderson would like to be part of Johanna's welcome.

Claudia Wilson announced that she and Darlene Clark will be co-clerks for Care and Concern and will try to get everything organized!

Advancement and Outreach

Polly Dunn reported that the article on the Meeting's solar panels is in the January issue of Friends Journal.

Worship and Ministry

Ann Sidone reported. The Committee is working on adult education. Renee Crauder will lead a worship sharing session on vocal ministry. The Committee is proposing trying something new: do the worship sharing during Meeting for Worship on February 21st. There would be queries. The session would be on where vocal ministry may come from and not being afraid of speaking what comes through you. Part of the time would be unstructured worship.

Meeting approved using Meeting for Worship on February 21st for a worship sharing on vocal ministry.

For Friends to note on their calendar: there will be a workshop on Quaker process with Arthur Larabee on April 16th.

In looking how to reach out to the Muslim community we are pursuing a "meeting for peace." Beth Resko has agreed to head up the project, working with Ben Wideman.

One Friend asked if there is a way to bring in people who are not from a “peace church.” She also hoped it would be announced in the Bulletin.

Friends School

Dan Hendey reported. The Board of Trustees approved the updated by-laws and will have them sent to the Meeting for review. They are now working on a renewal of the school’s strategic plan.

School is going well. They are heading into admissions season and having open houses. They are presenting “King in Montgomery” on Monday 1/18 (MLK Day) at 1:00 and 7:00pm. They are looking for people who want to be in the chorus.

SPICES Gala brought in \$16,000 for the school. It was a great event.

Finance Committee

Kerry Wiessman reported. The year-end report will be available next month. One Friend thanked the treasurer for a readable budget last month.

Kerry presented a draft proposal to fund organizations the Meeting supports, since we do not have enough in donations to give what we would like to give. The idea is to have a Saturday social one Saturday a month to raise money for each charity. Selden Smith noted it is also an opportunity for outreach to people beyond the Meeting who support a particular charity.

Some Friends responded with practical considerations. Perhaps we should charge a set amount with less for children. Another Friend noted that one church she knew did this for the Women’s Resource Center and was packed with people, so we would need to be ready for any size crowd.

Another person wondered about offering local “celebrities” as a way to draw people. International speakers could present a program.

Kerry said if there is a sense of unity, the approval will be great, but what is needed is a core of people to help with the process – not to do all the work, just to organize it. Another Friend wondered whether we are able to venture on a new venture when we are worried about getting things done now. Another noted that something like this also pulls us together. She wondered about a test run with just our own community, and waiting a few months to start.

The Meeting approved the general concept of dinners to raise money for charities and for Kerry Wiesmann to look for a core group to organize it.

Kerry asked if anyone would participate. Polly Dunn will help with getting speakers; Selden Smith will help with food.

Buildings and Grounds

Larry Greenleaf reported. The Committee is still waiting for someone to explain the monitor/panel in the entryway. The Garden Level was described as “a controlled mess.” We have paid 10% of the bill; the rest is due when the work is finished. The total will be about \$30,000. The heating company had to be called in to remove one heating element on the wall so work could be done. The concrete has been replaced at the front of the building, with a root removed that was causing the problem.

The Meeting approved the following minute:

State College Friends Meeting wants to express appreciation to everyone who helped clean out the garden level rooms so work on the mold issue could proceed. It is a great example of cooperation in our Friends

community. Those who assisted are: Brosi Bradley, Kersey Bradley, Gary Fosmire, Larry Greenleaf, Michael Grutzeck, David Jeffreys, Laurie Jeffreys, Kathy Drapcho Klein, Lance Lehman, and Selden Smith.

Religious Education

Karen Anderson said that RE needs another teacher. They are trying to arrange a celebration in the spring for Cy deVries to celebrate her many years as a teacher for RE.

Yearly Meetings

Selden Smith, clerk, noted that he had received a poster from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting saying thank you for support.

Kerry Wiessmann said she is going to the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Women's Retreat for the first time, along with several other women from the Meeting.

Clerk's Correspondence

Thank you notes for donations were received from Housing Transition and Park Forest Preschool.

Selden Smith met with Ben Wideman. He is a Mennonite minister released to build campus presence for peace churches. He is bringing the churches and interested students together. He will work with us (and others) on the Meeting for Peace and the Palm Sunday peace walk. He was hoping we would financially support his work but the request was much higher than we can afford. He would like to come and talk with us about his work. Selden will invite him for a time that is after the rise of Meeting on a non-potluck day.

*The Meeting approved the following minute of appreciation:
The Meeting would like to thank Deryn Verity and Marianne Stevens for their years of doing the Meeting newsletter. They did a wonderful job in its presentation and in assisting communication within the Meeting.*

Review Minutes from last Business Meeting:

Minutes were not dispersed so will be reviewed in February.

Next Business Meeting for Worship: February 7th, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Selden Smith, Clerk

Margy Frysinger, Recording Clerk

Attending:

Kerry Wiessmann

Larry Greenleaf

Kersey Bradley

Gary Fosmire

Susan Knox

Campbell Plowden

Claudia Wilson

Ann Sidone

Polly Dunn

Renee Crauder

Michael Grutzeck

Lynne Grutzeck

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RETURN REQUESTED