

**FRIENDLY
CONNECTIONS**

State College Friends Meeting

**July/August 2016
Newsletter**



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

Call for Articles, Photo, Thoughts - If your gift includes words, images, or just honest thoughts, please send them to the Newsletter email address: SCFMNewsletter@gmail.com

~ Brosi

Announcements

First Day (Sunday), 8/14/2016

9:45 am Childcare

9:45 am Gather for Meeting for Worship

10:00 am Meeting for Worship

11:15 am Meeting for Worship for Business

Potluck following Business meeting

► We are currently in need of someone to do child care for the 2016-2017 school year, beginning August 28th. Please contact Becky Misangyi if you hear of any interested candidates.

► Summer Meeting for Worship: Through September 4, Meeting for Worship will be held at 10:00. Summer meetings for business will be held after meeting for worship.

► Harvest Celebration -**SAVE the DATE!** Saturday, October 15, 2016 is our second annual State College Friends Meeting Harvest Celebration. Similar to last year we will start at 4:30 and end at 7p.m., serving a wonderful supper and providing musical entertainment. Our theme this year is SPICING it up with Gratitude. We look forward to another gathering of Friends and hope you will join us. If you are able to help the team of people pulling this together, please contact Kerry at [814-571-8909](tel:814-571-8909) or kgw11@scasd.org.

► Potlucks on business meeting days. Instead of having committees each take a month for social hour and potluck duty, Friends are encouraged to help out in the kitchen in the month of their birthday. A signup calendar will be forthcoming - if your birthday month doesn't suit, please consider finding several other First Days throughout the year for this fellowship and service opportunity.

► **Foxdale Meeting for Worship** - A Meeting for Worship is also held at Foxdale every first Day. All are welcome. Gather at 10:15 am in the nurses' conference room.

To find the Meeting, enter at the front of the building, turn left and walk down the hallway to Anthony House. Enter through the security door, walk ahead, and turn right at the second sign for the Health Services Administration. The nurses' conference room is ahead on your left.

► Upcoming Pendle Hill programs

· Published Quaker children's book author Becky Birtha and guest illustrator will help you in
 <https://pendlehill.org/events/writing-the-childrens-book-you-hold-in-your-heart/#.V4k_hKLMk_Y> Writing the Children's Book You Hold in Your Heart, August 14-18.

· Get ready for First Day School. Quaker educator and certified trainer Melinda Wenner-Bradley trains teachers to use Godly Play® and Faith & Play™ story-telling materials for children of all ages in <https://pendlehill.org/events/playing-in-the-light/#.V4lBTKLMk_Z> Playing in the Light: Godly Play®/ Faith & Play™ Training for Quakers, August 19-21.

· Help spruce up Pendle Hill grounds and buildings in preparation for fall in a working retreat,
 <https://pendlehill.org/events/lives-service-working-retreat/#.V4lCm6LMk_Y> Lives of Service, led by Lloyd Guindon and Bob Denison, September 23-25.

John J. Meyer, Pendle Hill Education Coordinator, [\(610\) 566-4507](tel:(610)566-4507), ext. 129, <<http://www.pendlehill.org/>>www.pendlehill.org

Pendle Hill is a Quaker study, retreat, and conference center.

Sign up for their monthly

<<http://oi.vresp.com/?fid=aea8e6a5b3>> e-newsletter. Like them on <<http://www.facebook.com/pendlehill>> Facebook!

► Interfaith Initiative Centre County Events

August Interfaith Coffee Hour -- Games Night!
Thursday, August 18, 6-8 pm

Location: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 208 West Foster Avenue, State College

-Bring your favorite games (i.e., table/board games), and teach them to your interfaith friends! Please let IICC Convener Sarah know if you hope to bring a game.

Sitting Together for Peace

Friday, August 19, starting at 6:30 pm

You are invited to Shih-In Ma's home, Sahaja: "Let us sit together to meditate in the interfaith meditation room, to pray for, to embody peace and love as best we can."

-We will gather for potluck snacks, then sit together from 8-8:30 pm. If you cannot come in body, please consider sitting with us from 8-8:30 pm wherever you are. Please RSVP to

<mailto:sittingtogether2@gmail.com>sittingtogether2@gmail.com
if you intend to come. Shih-In Ma will give directions, and answer questions.

Calendar

Aug.14 SCFM Meeting for Worship for Business, 11 am, after Meeting for Worship

Sept.2-4 BYM Spiritual Formation Fall Session

Sept.17 SCFM Saturday Social, Park Forest Pre-School fundraiser

Sept.23-25 Upper Susquehanna Quarter Fall Family Gathering, Camp Crystal Lake, Hughesville PA

Oct.1 SCFM workshop on food, cooking and food issues

Oct.15 SCFM Fall Harvest Celebration

See the websites of BYM (<<http://www.bym-rsf.org/>> www.bym-rsf.org), PYM (<<http://www.pym.org/>>www.pym.org), USQM (<<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/upper-susquehanna-quarterly-meeting>><https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/upper-susquehanna-quarterly-meeting>), SCFM (<<http://www.statecollegefriends.org/>> [statecollegefriends.org](http://www.statecollegefriends.org/)), State College Friends School (<<http://statecollegefriendsschool.org/>> statecollegefriendsschool.org), FGC (<<http://fgcquaker.org/>> fgcquaker.org), Pendle Hill (<<http://www.pendlehill.org/>> www.pendlehill.org), FCNL (fcnl.org) for further info.

THINKING ABOUT RACE (Summer 2016) - A “Scholarship of Belonging.”

“For far too long, society has treated minority groups from a deficit analysis, focusing on what they lack rather than what they add. Institutions have reacted to racial tensions instead of proactively creating inclusive spaces. We have taught people how to adjust to an unacceptable status quo instead of sharing the legitimate means to challenge injustice. By not taking the time to listen to people, we have let efficiency trump listening and allowed limited diversity to supplant real equity at the table, at the lectern, and in the boardroom....

“We all have good will, but we must move beyond good will. Universities can help improve a sense of belonging by setting clear goals, fostering inclusive environments, and challenging negative stereotypes about certain groups. We have to create structures that ensure participation of minority groups in decisions. We need to model and teach the competencies of deep listening and respectful dialogue across differences. We must also determine how to work cooperatively to transform deeply embedded practices that have created barriers to belonging.”

Excerpts from an article by Julio Frenk, “Why We Need a ‘Scholarship of Belonging’,” published in the May 20, 2016, Chronicle of Higher Education. Julio Frank is president of the University of Miami and former dean of Harvard University’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR) and sent to the designated liaisons at each Monthly and Preparative Meeting. Contact clerk David Etheridge,

david.etheridge@verizon.net.

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
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?

QUERIES

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?

STATE COLLEGE FRIENDS MEETING
MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS

Sixth Month 5th, 2016

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Meeting began with silent worship and a reading of the Queries on Equality from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

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?

One Friend responded that the second sentence should include “religion.” This Friend has felt the discrimination of Muslims in State College and sometimes within our Meeting. Another Friend said our outreach to those without money is simply not there. She would like to see a soup kitchen once a week. Everyone says it’s a great idea for someone else to do. It takes people power. Someone else mentioned an article about the French or English beginning a program for emergency intervention for mental health concerns. It’s something for us to think about. Another Friend asked, “What does equality mean?”

Someone expressed a desire for a course on how to respond to mental health issues, such as the Course on Miracles that says everyone is either expressing love or their need for love. We have all been given infinite consciousness being from the source. Another Friend said that if there is no will for the Meeting as a whole to do something, we can each do something ourselves every day, even if it is just to smile at someone. We can also continue to examine ourselves.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Two items were added: a report of the whole for Peace and Social Action, and a request about moving benches.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Garden Level Renovations: Request for ad-hoc committee

Kerry Wiessmann brought the following minute to consider:

We authorize a garden level renovation committee comprised of Larry Greenleaf, Gary Fosmire, Kerry Wiessmann and one additional member to renovate the garden level this summer, with other members of Meeting called upon to do designated tasks. The committee will create a tiered plan of completion so that RE can use the facility in the fall, while some of the other changes will be completed over the course of the next year or two. The committee will decide on final changes to be made according to the suggestions made at last business meeting and the recommendations of the Interior Designer who will give us that advice in June. The committee is authorized to incur expenses required by the plan in order to make the garden level available to Religious Education this fall.

We will use the deferred maintenance funds to the extent possible. Other needed funds will come from the undesignated Mook and Myers funds in the Friends Fiduciary. We will apply to FGC and/or PYM funds for these renovations if necessary once we have an estimated cost.

In the discussion that followed, Kerry noted that the interior designer, Paula Cipar, is donating 10 hours of her time. In response to a question, Kerry said that most of the work could be done by fall. Projects would be prioritized, with the walls, floor, and cleaning happening first. Some of the work will be through hiring help and Larry is working on a Request for Proposal for that. The Meeting's funds will be used first before we ask for help from FGC and PYM.

Lynne Grutzeck volunteered to be on the committee.

Meeting approved the minute to create the committee on garden level renovations.

Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report

Connie Wheeler, treasurer, reported first. Contributions through May are \$18,924 and the budget for this year is \$43,400. Last year at this time the contributions were \$15,490 and the budget was \$51,300. Last year we had bequests of over \$32,000 but there have been none this year. Money is being moved from deferred maintenance to the checking account to pay for the mold eradication.

In response to a question, Connie said that the Saturday fundraising dinners go in as donations. But they are also counted in the general fund budget. We took in \$2500 for the dinners and all the money taken in will go to the designated charities.

Kerry Wiessmann reported for Finance Committee. The four fundraising dinners took in \$500, \$600, \$700, and \$450. The Meeting will send the last charity \$500 by adding our planned annual contribution. The agencies that benefited have really appreciated the outreach and the contribution. We have also brought in some neighbors of the Meeting House and other non-Friends. One more dinner is scheduled for Park Forest Preschool in September. The Fall Harvest Dinner Committee is meeting to discuss planning the annual celebration. Kerry noted that Finance Committee is working on a minute on fundraising guidelines.

Discussion included how to get more Meeting members to attend fundraising dinners. Perhaps there could be coordination with RE next year, or maybe change it to Friday nights.

Worship and Ministry/Care and Concern

The two committees met and discussed combining them. We will be meeting again in July.

Religious Education

Sunny Rehler reported. RE has finished for this year and has begun planning for next year. They are finding it difficult to plan for grades K to 5 since attendance is so variable. They are going to reach out to the families to see if there is anything they can do. The middle and high school class is fairly cohesive. Ella is graduating and they will miss her. They also want to recognize Cy for her RE work. One idea for the next year is to teach vegetarian meals to the children and then maybe combine their new skills with a fundraiser.

RE has been corresponding with PYM about clearances. The teachers all need clearances, but those who substitute one time do not. Anyone who does direct supervision of children needs a clearance. A presenter or helper does not.

One idea suggested to increase RE attendance was to ask families on Friday if they are coming on Sunday, and to say what is planned to increase interest. Another suggestion was to offer rides to the children to Meeting if the parents are not coming.

RE is looking for substitute teachers and help with the middle/high school class for next year. Let Sunny know if you can help.

Friends School

Dan Hendeby reported. May was a very busy month. Fun Fair had a good turnout and brought in over \$8000. The camping trip had over 80 parents, all of whom had to get clearances and undergo voluntary training to stay in the cabins with the children.

The school year ended with four students graduating. It was a very nice event.

Enrollment for next year has been steady but needs to be even better. The school is on the edge of financial security. The Board needs one more Quaker so please let Ann Sidone know if you are interested.

Since the school has become well versed in the clearance laws, Dan offered to give information to RE, including how to do it on the computer. Employees have to pay for their clearances and have to renew every two years. Clearances for volunteers are free and have to be renewed every five years. Those volunteer clearances can be transferred to other volunteer opportunities.

Nominating Committee

Gary Fosmire reported and presented a draft of committees for 2016-17. He asked everyone to talk with others they may know of, who might be encouraged to join a committee.

Meeting Room Benches

Renee Crauder asked if Meeting could move some benches aside so people have to sit closer to each other.

Meeting approved moving benches.

Peace and Social Action

Campbell Plowden reported on AVP work. They did a workshop at FCI McKean, a federal prison. They also did a basic workshop on AVP in Williamsport two weeks ago. It was an intense two-day workshop.

Campbell also met with his support group for his work with Mujaddid Muhammad. The group has morphed into a support group for those working in prisons.

OTHER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS

Selden received a request for names of Quaker lawyers. No one knew of any in State College. He also announced that PYM wants to do a story on the Language of God workshop.

Selden met with Bruce Haines, who is working as a fundraiser for AFSC. Service Committee wants to bring a program to SCFM, Friends School, and Foxdale. One Friend noted that she hoped it would be more interactive than the last AFSC program she went to, which was just presented as a lecture.

CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

Meeting received a thank-you from Housing Transitions for the fundraising dinner.

A letter was received from Nancy Brink asking to be relieved of her membership. It will be given to Care and Concern to follow up on.

The State College Mennonite Church wants to open a 10,000 Villages store. They are looking for other groups to collaborate with them.

Friends Meeting of Washington sent a transfer letter for Ollie Jones. This will also be given to Care and Concern.

PYM sent a copy of the 2017 budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lynne Heritage passed on to Selden that Chuck Fager's granddaughter is getting married.

Friends are reminded that Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. for the summer. The change starts on June 12th.

Darlene Clark announced that Ann Sidone was recovering from her surgery and the Meeting was providing meals and help. Ann is enjoying any opportunity to get out of the house!

Campbell Plowden announced that next Tuesday, the Board of the Center for Amazon Ecology will be discussing merger with another organization. He asked that we hold them in the Light.

Renee Crauder asked the Meeting to hold her son and daughter-in-law in the Light since they are travelling to Paris.

REVIEW OF MAY MINUTES

The May minutes were accepted as presented.

**Next Business Meeting for Worship: August 14th at 11:15 a.m.,
after Meeting for Worship. (Potluck will follow.)**

Respectfully submitted,

Selden Smith, Clerk
Recording Clerk

Margy Frysinger,

Attending:

Kerry Wiessmann

Campbell Plowden

Lynne Grutzeck

Michael Grutzeck

Mary Haight

Dan Hendey

Polly Dunn

Darlene Clark

Connie Wheeler

Kersey Bradley

Kim Kelmor

Sunny Rehler

Ingrid Hoffnar

Bernie Hoffnar

Renee Crauder

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RETURN REQUESTED