

**FRIENDLY
CONNECTIONS**

State College Friends Meeting

**November
2016
Newsletter**



*State College Friends Meeting
611 East Prospect Ave.
State College, PA 16801*

Phone (814) 237-7051

Newsletter suggestions, ideas, articles? Please submit to
SCFMNewsletter@gmail.com

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Announcements

► Pictures for Photo Board Update

Katy Cleary will have her camera at Meeting on two First Days in November, November 6 and November 20. Please find Katy to have an updated picture taken for the photo board. OR you can give us a photo you have or take a selfie, but there are many members and attenders who have outdated photos (children who were 5 or 6 but are now 10 or 11). Thank you!

► Upper Susquehanna Quarterly Meeting Fiber and Handwork Gathering, Sat. and Sun., Nov. 12-13,

<<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/upper-susquehanna-quarterly-meeting/pages/about-huntingdon>> Huntingdon Meeting House, 2206 Cassady Ave. Huntingdon, PA. Come join Friends of all ages for an hour or two or a whole weekend of fun with fiber and other handcrafts. Knitting, crocheting, spinning, felting, quilting and more. Bring your own supplies and skills or just come and let us share ours. Friendly lessons will be available all day.

► **Sitting Together For Peace, Dec. 2, 6:30 pm - ?**

You are invited to Shih-In Ma's home, Sahaja, to pray for and embody the peace and love we wish for ourselves and the world.

Gather for a potluck dinner, then sit together in silence and stillness from 8:00 until 8:30. If you RSVP, I will send you the readings in advance and we will presence you by name before we sit. RSVP to <mailto:sittingtogether2@gmail.com>
sittingtogether2@gmail.com

NOVEMBER INTERFAITH COFFEE HOUR - Abrahamic Table Panel Discussion - sponsored by Interfaith Initiative Centre County and the Turkish Cultural Center of State College

- o **SUBJECT:** "Gratitude to God - Why do we give thanks and praise to God?"
- o **DATE:** Thursday, November 10, 7:00 pm.
- o **LOCATION:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 780 Waupelani Drive Extension, State College.
- o **PANELISTS:** Rabbi David Ostrich, Congregation Brit Shalom; Suleyman Eris, Respect Graduate School; Rev. Dr. Sarah Q. Malone, IICC Convener; Gail Badiei, State College Baha'i Community. **Moderator:** Rev. Ken Kline Smeltzer
- o **SAVE THE DATE - Free Parking - All Are Welcome!**

Park Forest Preschool: OPEN DOORS...OPEN HEARTS - December 4th

Open a door to tour Holiday Homes in the College Heights Section of State College and open your heart to support the Park Forest Preschool at the same time. Have a fun afternoon exploring 6 homes open for self-conducted tours on Sunday, December 4 from 1-5 pm. The style, history, and architecture of the houses on the tour are as varied as the families who live in them. Tickets cost \$10 in advance or \$15 the day of the event. Upon purchase of your ticket, you will receive a small booklet with addresses and directions to each of the six homes.

Ticket sales benefit the Park Forest Preschool, a tuition-free preschool for 2, 3, and 4 year olds from income-qualified families in Centre County. The school has been in operation for nearly five decades and is entirely funded by contributions and donations from congregations and organizations in the community.

Bring along some friends to share in the fun. There will be gift baskets raffled in each home and also a scavenger hunt with a \$250 grand prize winner announced at the end of the day. Tickets can be purchased at Gio's Hair Design, Daniel Vaughn Designs, Old Main Frame Shop and Gallery, Hairworks, Harper's Shop for Men and The Animal Kingdom. For more event information, please contact Gail Guss at gailguss@comcast.net or 814-883-3667 or Sally Thiel at sallythiel@comcast.net.

Thinking About Thinking About Race (November 2016)- FFAD Minute Regarding State Sanctioned Violence

“The Fellowship of Friends of African Descent [FFAD] is a 25 year old Quaker organization that supports the spiritual nurture of Quakers of African descent and provides opportunities for sharing our concerns.

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“The problems of racism, militarism and violence that we face are rooted in the deeper, less recognized sicknesses of materialism and greed. From the slave trade and plantation economics of the American south to the terroristic subjugation of Jim Crow to the modern-day profits of miseducation and mass incarceration, racial stereotypes have been used to mask and justify the exploitation and denial of economic human rights to people of African descent. As a result, these communities are under-resourced, as is evidenced by the lack of jobs, healthcare, quality education and decent housing. In the absence of real opportunities for employment and economic self-sufficiency underground economies rise up in our communities to fill the gap. People in these economies are criminalized and prosecuted even though they are only seeking to provide enough resources to support their families. We realize that we cannot have a meaningful conversation about ending racial oppression without also addressing classism, joblessness and wealth inequality.

“In response to these realities, we, as Quakers and as people of African descent call for the following:

1. PEACEFORCE
2. PEACE CENTERS
3. COMMUNITY TRAINING
4. DISARMAMENT"


You may read the details of these four items and the full minute at www.fofad.org/2016-gathering.html. Click the "Minute Regarding State-Sanctioned Violence" link on that page.

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR) and sent to the designated liaison at each Monthly and Preparative Meeting. The BYM 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.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Education

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?



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Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

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?



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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?

STATE COLLEGE FRIENDS MEETING
MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS

Tenth Month 2nd, 2016

Meeting began with silent worship and a reading of the Queries on the Peace Testimony from Baltimore Yearly Meeting:

Do you endeavor to live "in virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars"? Do you work to make your peace testimony a reality in your life and in your world? Do you weigh your day-to-day activities for their effect on peace-keeping, conflict resolution and the elimination of violence? Are you working toward eliminating aggression at all levels, from the personal to the international?

There were several responses to the query. They included several people who realized they could always do better. One said, "I always add another question for me – am I at peace with my neighbor?" Always having love in your heart, another said, can be very difficult during this election season and help would be appreciated.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Outreach and Social Action was added to the agenda, along with several announcements.

REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND ACTIONS

Finance Committee

Connie Wheeler, treasurer, reported on the budget. She noted that Buildings and Grounds are a bit over budget but it was due to extraordinary expenses such as the sidewalk that were not connected with the basement work. She has begun working on next year's budget. Connie noted that we have 80% of donations in for this year's budget, which is a good place to be.

The charges for the basement work have gotten up to \$50,000. The deferred maintenance fund will contribute \$44,000 of that cost. At this point we are down to about \$5,000 in the deferred maintenance fund. We may have to use out-of-pocket money or money from a Friends Fiduciary Fund. Larry Greenleaf noted that there are major expenses coming so we will need money in deferred maintenance. Kerry Wiessmann responded that Finance Committee is looking at doing a Capital Campaign Fund to help pay for the garden level renovations.

Yuri Plowden added that the Finance Committee had decided at its last meeting to do end-of-year fundraising now and do a

capital campaign next year. A suggestion was made that there be personal visitations along with a fund-raising letter, but the visits should not include asking for a certain amount. The visit could explain why the money is needed.

Discussion ensued about the difference between a capital campaign fund and a deferred maintenance fund. One Friend noted that deferred maintenance needs to be kept at a level that is functional. Another Friend added that it's a fine line between capital improvements and maintenance. Larry Greenleaf added that we need to move money from some funds into deferred maintenance now to increase that fund.

There is a fund for meeting houses at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and a Friend wondered about tapping that fund. Do we use funds we currently have first and then ask, or vice-versa?

Meeting charged Finance Committee with addressing that question and then reporting back next month.

Worship and Ministry

There was no report, but questions were raised about Meeting for Worship at Foxdale and Friends School.

Buildings and Grounds

Larry Greenleaf reported. Work parties were organized to get the garden level ready for First Day School. Carpeting and the baseboard have been installed. There are still more finishing touches to be done. The Veronesi Company did additional work and the bill was still less than the next higher bidder. We are replacing the lights with LED lights and will rebuild shelves. Any thoughts or ideas on what still needs attention should be directed to Larry.

The following Minute of Appreciation was approved by the Meeting:

State College Friends Meeting wants to recognize and thank the Friends whose diligence and hard work have led to the reformation of the garden level in the Meeting House. Many hours of difficult work were provided by many people for the benefit of the Meeting community. The Meeting expresses appreciation for all who contributed.

Meeting also decided to express its gratitude at the upcoming Harvest Dinner.

Larry continued reporting for Buildings and Grounds. He noted that the Committee's line in the budget had expenses pretty much

on par. Some of the over-expense was due to the garden level work and it will be revised.

A letter of resignation as clerk of Buildings and Grounds was read by Larry Greenleaf. His resignation will be effective at the end of the year. He is feeling the need to focus on his own affairs. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to focus on stewardship of the earth and the joy of working with others.

Members present at Business Meeting expressed profound thanks to Larry for serving, and asked for a minute of appreciation for next BMFW.

Since Laurence Jones contributed a lot to the garden level work, and he will not see the minute of appreciation, a thank-you note will be sent to him by Laurie Jeffreys. It was also suggested that Laurence be invited to the Harvest Dinner without the need of a donation.

Friends School

Dan Hendey reported. There are 114 students in K-8, and 25 in pre-K. The school could use a few more students.

Improvements to the playground are moving forward to increase imaginative play and real-world problem-solving. There will be Quakerism 101 evening sessions for parents to help them understand the basis of a Quaker School since there are fewer Quakers attending and teaching there. A session on the Quaker School/Meeting relationship will be held on October 29th. Dan will be attending along with Ann Sidone, who is clerk of the school's board. They hope someone else from Meeting will attend as well.

One Friend asked how the school is dealing with the current election. Dan responded that they try to be sensitive and minimize differences so they don't take sides. Another Friend said she was impressed with the International Day of Peace activities that were on the front page of the local paper. Dan said that they handed out 100 "peace cookies" were interviewed by a radio station, sang peace songs, and went to stores and on the streets to hand out the cookies. Dan credited Lori Pacchioli, Director of Development, with the day's success.

The annual Spices event to raise money for scholarship will be on November 13th at the Atherton Hotel from 5:00 to 9:00pm.

Religious Education

Sunny Rehler reported. The intergenerational workshop on food brought about 18 participants, six of whom were Friends. Some attending asked for information about the Meeting. The program tried to facilitate communication on the value of healthy food. The costs totaled \$105 and \$90 was paid by those attending.

Another program on food will occur on December 3rd. It will be cooking and discussion. Yuri Plowden said that she attended the first program and thought it was good outreach. She would like to see the Meeting support it with increased attendance.

Meeting approved the second program and other children's programs but asked that programs be postponed if there is a low sign-up.

Kerry Wiessmann noted that we have about 10 children in the younger group, so there has been a nice influx. They were attending Pennsdale Meeting today, and the high school group was at Foxdale.

Outreach and Social Action

A report from "the whole."

Sue Knox reported from her work with the PA Prison Society. She goes to Centre County Prison. She became aware that LGBTQA prisoners felt misunderstood. There will be a training session at Foxdale on October 21st for visitors to the prison. Contact Sue or Kerry for more information.

Sue also reported that inmates have not been able to use the law library and its software at the prison. Kim Kilmore has stepped up to help and will be doing 3 training sessions on how to use the software. One session will be for women, one for men, and one for case managers.

Kerry Wiessmann updated the Meeting on the Center for LGBTQA Support Network. A Mennonite Theater Group from Canada will be doing a show at UBBC called "And There Will Be Dancing." Follow-up on this is referred to Outreach and Social Action Committee.

Kerry also announced that this year's PFLAG Thanksgiving Dinner will be on November 13th at the Meeting House. This is always a great event.

Lynne Grutzeck reported that the November Interfaith fundraiser will be at Harrison's. Marjorie Nelson announced that Teresa Hamster from FCNL will talk at the Meeting next First Day at 1:00. She will be at Foxdale at 3:30.

A group hoping to bring a refugee family to the area has been meeting at the Unitarian Church. Margy Frysinger reported that she has been part of this group but made it clear to the group that she is not representing the Meeting since the group will be asking for money to add support for the refugees. It will likely be a number of months before any refugees can be brought here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renee Crauder said we have been getting 30 copies made of the newsletter each month and then throwing several away. She wondered if 25 was enough. One Friend asked if newsletters are given to new people. She worries they don't get enough information. This issue was referred to Outreach and Social Action to inform greeters to hand out the newsletters to visitors who want them. Renee will confirm with Polly Dunn that we can decrease the number to 25.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

BMFW Minutes from September 11th were accepted with the correction of the spelling of Laurence Jones' name.

YEARLY AND QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Many announcements have arrived from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. They will be put in the social room for Friends to review.

CORRESPONDENCE

A special event will be held at the William Penn House next weekend. Andre Israel has invited Friends to attend and stay at William Penn House.

Next Business Meeting for Worship: November 6th, 2016, at 9:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Sidone, Acting Clerk
Recording Clerk

Margy Frysinger,

Attending:

Kerry Wiessmann

Connie Wheeler

Marjorie E. Nelson

Laurie Jeffreys

Lynne Grutzeck

Michael Grutzeck

Martin Melville

Yuri Plowden

Susan Knox

Gary Fosmire

Elizabeth Pennock

Renee Crauder

Ingrid Hoffnar

Bernie Hoffnar

Sunny Rehler

Larry Greenleaf

Dan Hendey

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