

**FRIENDLY  
CONNECTIONS**

**State College Friends Meeting**

**December  
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](mailto:SCFMNewsletter@gmail.com)**

## **Announcements**

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Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The annual intergenerational Christmas Pageant needs people of all ages to come together to create the pageant to be performed at Foxdale on **Sunday, December 11th** at the rise of Meeting for worship.

The practice schedule is:

Sunday, Dec 4 9:30-10:45 @ Mtg House

Sunday, Dec 11 9:00-10:45 @ Foxdale

We have special challenge this year to bring the message of love to all. The script is ready. All we need is you. Please consider joining us! :)Kerry



### **Giving Back to Amazon Communities: Presentation and Fair-Trade Holiday Craft Sale**

Sunday, December 18, Campbell Plowden will give a presentation at 9:30 am about his work supporting native communities and conservation in the Peruvian Amazon at State College

Friends Meeting. From 12 noon to 4 pm, there will be a sale of fair-trade handicrafts made by native artisans who work with the Center for Amazon Community Ecology. Craft sales create sustainable livelihoods for native artisans and support better health, education and forest conservation in their communities.

Dr. Plowden is the Center's founder and member of State College Friends Meeting. For more information, visit

[www.amazonecology.org](http://www.amazonecology.org) or call 814-238-5148.

## FOOD THAT'S REAL FOR THE FAMILY MEAL.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:30 to 1 pm, State College Friends Meeting Social Room.

Our next intergenerational program will take place from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in our Social Room with the theme: "Easy and Delicious Holiday Recipes". The facilitator will be Laura Zaino, who is owner of Zaino Farm and former professional cook. We will discuss food issues, watch a demonstration of food prep, get some hands-on practice and share a sit-down communal luncheon. Laura is a strong advocate of seasonal, local produce and also of sustainable farming practices, so that we may be discussing the advantages of choosing the sources of our food wisely both for our health AND for the environment. Please join us!

Register either by signing up in our Social Room or sending E-mail to Sunny Rehler at [suncst@gmail.com](mailto:suncst@gmail.com)! Space is limited, so we encourage early registration. Hope to see you there! SUNNY REHLER

Below is a link to the printed flyer: <http://tinyurl.com/hwk4xhy>

## Thinking About Race (December 2016) – Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

On January 14-17, 1963, a National Conference on Race and Religion took place in Chicago. Among other speakers were Martin Luther King, Jr., and Abraham Joshua Heschel. Rabbi Heschel's address on January 14 appears as one chapter in the 1966 book **The Insecurity of Freedom**, from which this passage is drawn.

"'Again I saw all the oppressions that are practiced under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them!' (Ecclesiastes 4:1)

"There is a form of oppression which is more painful and more scathing than physical injury or economic privation. It is *public humiliation*. What afflicts my conscience is that my face, whose skin happens not to be dark, instead of radiating the likeness of God, has come to be taken as an image of haughty assumption and overbearance. Whether justified or not, I, the white man, have become in the eyes of others a symbol of arrogance and pretension, giving offense to other human beings, hurting their pride, even without intending it. My very presence inflicting insult!

“ My heart is sick when I think of the anguish and the sighs, of the quiet tears shed in the nights in the overcrowded dwellings in the slums of our great cities, of the pangs of despair, of the cup of humiliation that is running over.

“The crime of murder is tangible and punishable by law. The sin of insult is imponderable, invisible. When blood is shed, human eyes see red; when a heart is crushed, it is only God who shares the pain.”

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](mailto:david.etheridge@verizon.net).



QUERTES  
QUERIES

## **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?

## 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?

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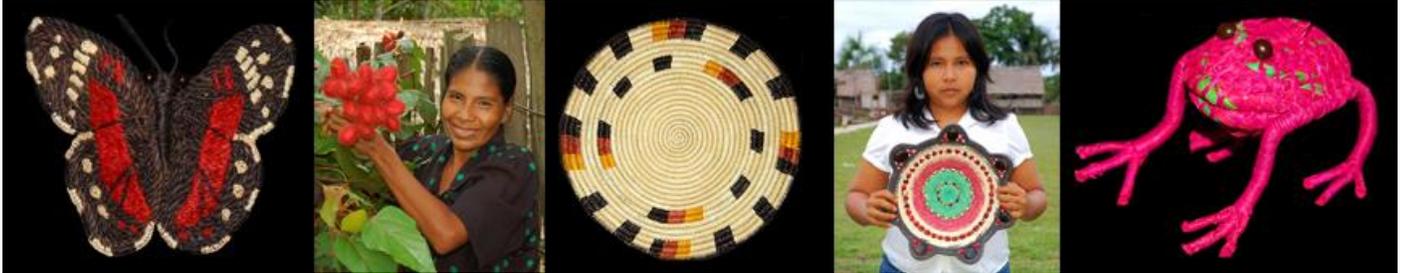
How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives – in my spiritual journey, my work, and my family responsibilities? How do I manage my commitments so that over-commitment, worry, and stress do not diminish my integrity?

Am I temperate in all things? Am I open to counsel and advice on overindulgence and addictive behavior, such as gambling? 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?

# ***Giving Back to Amazon Communities: Presentation and Holiday Craft Sale***



## **Presenter**

**Campbell Plowden**

**Executive Director of the Center for Amazon Community Ecology  
Member of State College Friends Meeting**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**

**Presentation: 9:45 – 10:45 am**

**Amazon Craft Sale: 12:00 to 4:00 pm**

**State College Friends Meeting**

**611 E. Prospect Ave., State College**

Dr. Campbell Plowden has worked for tropical forests for 30 years with groups including Greenpeace, the Humane Society, Amazon Watch and the Environmental Investigation Agency. He earned a PhD in Ecology at Penn State Univ. based on his work with native communities in Brazil and founded the Center for Amazon Community Ecology in 2006 to create positive alternatives to deforestation. CACE studies the ecology and sustainable harvest of non-timber forest products and helps forest people in Peru develop innovative products to support their families and meet basic needs in their communities. Campbell will discuss CACE's work and how his relationships with native communities have affected his personal journey as a Quaker.

## ***Give holiday gifts that give back***

These fair-trade crafts are hand-made by native and campesino artisans from the Peruvian Amazon with support from CACE. Crafts include Christmas tree ornaments with Amazon wildlife figures, woven belts, bags, baskets, guitar straps, hot pads, hat bands, bottle carriers, dog collars, maracas, and jewelry. CACE is a member of the Fair Trade Federation. Craft sales create sustainable livelihoods for artisan families and help improve health, education and forest conservation in their communities. This is a great chance to find unique gifts to give others to that also give back to communities in the rainforest.

For more information about CACE visit: [www.amazonecology.org](http://www.amazonecology.org) or call 814-238-5148.

**STATE COLLEGE FRIENDS MEETING**  
**MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS**

**Eleventh Month 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Meeting began with silent worship and a reading of the Queries from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting 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?*

There were several responses to the Queries. One Friend said she felt guilty about not doing enough for climate change. We do small things as a family, but we need to take the next step. The support of the community to take the next step together would be an impetus for her. Another Friend said she felt more connected to the AFSC after being located next to an AFSC office. It helped her understand how dynamic and on the front line AFSC is with the challenge of human rights in this country. She is not aware of the Meeting having a strong connection with AFSC and wanted to bring it up to spark something.

Another Friend said she wanted to decrease her dependence on fossil fuels but it is difficult to decrease use in an affordable way. How can we as a Meeting support one another to have a positive

impact? Could we decrease fossil fuel by 10%, or find a way to challenge ourselves to change, at least in little ways. LED lights in the garden level, solar panels on the roof. Buildings and Grounds is trying to make the Meeting place more environmentally friendly. What will be our next step as a Meeting to become more environmentally friendly to the earth?

## **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

A minute of appreciation was added to the agenda.

## **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND ACTIONS**

### **Outreach and Social Action**

Polly Dunn reported.

Outreach and Social Action needs to update the photo board once again. It has been neglected for too long and many of the children pictured there have grown considerably over the years. Katy Cleary will have her camera at Meeting on November 6 and 20, so please find her to have a current photo taken or bring us one you have taken.

Looking at the website, the newly merged committees of Worship and Ministry and Outreach and Social Action need to be listed as

such and perhaps have new descriptions as well. Committees that no longer exist need to be removed.

*Meeting approved the removal of the Program Committee from the website as a separate committee.*

The Committee returned to consideration of reinstating some adult programs at the 10 am time slot before meeting for worship. Individuals will be approached to see if they are interested in sharing their experiences on a scheduled morning, beginning in January. The Committee doesn't envision any regular schedule of programs; they will just plan some times that seem appropriate and convenient for presenters.

CLSN (advocacy group for LGBTQA) has asked Meeting to co-sponsor the play "This Will Lead to Dancing", a national play focusing on LGBTQA issues. The total cost of bringing it here is \$1500, and it is tentatively scheduled for April. Meeting has been asked to contribute \$250 and in so doing will join CLSN, UBBC, and the Presbyterian Church as a co-sponsor (three other churches have also been asked). Our committee recommends that Meeting co-sponsor this play, and we also invite individuals to contribute as they wish to help reduce the amount that will come from the budget.

*Meeting approved \$250 to CLSN to co-sponsor the play.*

Finance Committee was charged with deciding which part of the budget could provide the \$250.

Outreach and Social Action Committee discussed how best to hold fundraising dinners in the spring that support our local charities. Overall, the dinners were positively received, raised \$500 each for the organization and in some cases more, attracted visitors who may not have been in the meetinghouse before, and provided participants with information about each organization. There were downsides too: many of the same overcommitted members and attenders were tasked with organizing the dinners, attendance from Meeting was light, some dinners were better publicized than others, and there was always the challenge of keeping expenses as low as possible.

The three people attending the Committee meeting arrived at a few preliminary conclusions. In order to have the dinners run smoothly and successfully, we will need to recruit clerks – who then recruit workers – or organizers for as many dinners as possible. There are 5 charities we support, 6 if we add 3rd Way Collective. We felt that if we don't have enough organizers/clerks, we should reduce the number of dinners we hold. Publicity is crucial and Kerry is willing to work on this. Other suggestions include trying weeknight dinners, and being sure the organization can notify their own supporters about the dinner by email (again publicity). The Committee is open to other

suggestions and continuing the discussion about how to make the dinners both successful and manageable.

Discussion ensued on whether the Meeting needs to adhere to safe serving practices. While it would be good to have some members certified, we are exempt as a religious organization from the requirement to have people certified.

A different thought was presented on how to staff the charity dinners. There could be a core of 5 people who do the meals. Doing more than one meal would decrease anxiety because the people doing the work would have experience. Outreach and Social Action Committee will put out a call for people willing to do the dinners.

The organizations chosen for the dinners are the ones we have been most involved with over the years and are local. It was suggested that chosen charities, which used to be reviewed annually by committee clerks, should be reviewed again.

Campbell Plowden requested the opportunity to offer Amazon handicrafts and do a presentation on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Meeting agreed.

Selden Smith and Johanna Jackson are being interviewed about Quakers on the radio Tuesday.

## **Worship and Ministry**

Margy Frysinger reported.

In membership matters, Worship and Ministry is pleased that the transfer information for Bernie and Ingrid Hoffnar has been received and they are now officially members of the Meeting. Johanna Jackson had put off her welcoming dinner earlier in the year, and that is now being planned.

The Committee is following up with several Meeting members with pastoral care needs. We hope that if anyone is in need of emotional or physical assistance, he or she will contact a member of this committee. Contact information is in the Bulletin.

The Committee discussed trying a Friendly Circle at the end of Meeting, inviting each attendee to share a joy, sorrow, or gratitude. This will help us get to know each other better. We will do singing and announcements first, and then get in the circle. We would like to start this on November 13<sup>th</sup> and try it for November and December. In January we will ask for feedback to see what people think.

Meeting for Worship will be held at Foxdale on December 11<sup>th</sup>, followed by the Christmas play. We hope everyone will join us there.

Those who attend the regular Foxdale MFW have requested that more of us attend. Worship & Ministry thought it might help to organize attendance. We are putting up a sign-up sheet so Friends can pick First Days to go to the Foxdale MFW. It does not have to be every First Day; it can just be a time or two a month. But that way we will know that it is happening.

The Committee is also working with Dan Hendey on a date for MFW at Friends School. We try to do that every year to give Friends School families an opportunity to try MFW.

### **Finance Committee**

Kerry Wiessmann presented the proposed budget.

Proposed budget for this year:

Last year we started at \$51,500 needed in contributions. In March we dropped the budget to \$43,400, and that is a good thing because contributions are keeping up with that amount.

The proposed budget includes a significant increase in wages because now we have an RE Coordinator to pay for a full year,

and we will implement salary increases in January for long-term employees.

Basement expenses are now up to \$55,000. This is \$5000 more than last month and we have not yet paid for lights, which will be at least \$5000 more. We are just under \$5000 in the deferred maintenance fund. We will use Norma White funds which are undesignated. Finance Committee asks Meeting to approve transfer of \$15,000 from the Norma White fund to our checking account which will pay for the rest of the basement renovations with any leftovers going to deferred maintenance.

*Meeting approved moving \$15,000 from the Norma White Fund at Friends Fiduciary into the Meeting's checking account.*

The Fall Harvest Celebration was a success with 80 attenders. Income and expenses have not yet been calculated, as Betsy has been swamped with other jobs.

Kerry met with a BYM Finance Committee Representative. It was a friendly get-to-know us visit. The person wanted information about how Finance Committee functions.

During the fundraising dinners Betsy kept an informal tally, but Connie is setting up a special event expense account so we can

track the dinners. All dinners were successful in drawing people to the dinner except the last one. Renee Crauder was out of town, so Foxdale people did not know about it, and it was a football weekend.

There will be a very simple End of Year appeal letter before the end of November. We have been asked not to send appeal letters to those in Darlington or Anthony at Foxdale.

We will initiate a Capital Campaign for our garden level renovations in January. We would like help from anyone who knows how to do this!

### **Religious Education**

Sunny Rehler reported that the younger children (K-5) are studying William Penn and early Quaker history. The middle and high school young Friends are visiting Foxdale residents and studying other religious traditions. Next week someone is coming to talk about Islam. In the spring, RE is considering working with the UU Church on intergenerational projects.

A workshop will be offered on December 3<sup>rd</sup> called "Food is Real." They will learn easy and delicious holiday recipes.

## **Friends School Report**

Ann Sidone reported. She and Lynne Grutzeck attended a conference on the care relationship between Meetings and Friends schools. They heard ideas about bringing the two organizations together.

Ann reminded everyone that the school's fundraiser, "Spices," is next Sunday.

## **Buildings and Grounds**

Larry Greenleaf reported.

### **1. Report on progress on Garden Level:**

Work goes on. We had a contribution of vinyl flooring for the closet at the entry. A shelf and clothes rod was installed in the same closet. The bathroom wall patch was completed. We are looking forward to replacing fluorescent lighting with L.E.D. lighting. We are anticipating a work party to install vinyl baseboard. We still need shelving replaced in the maintenance closet.

2. Work on the outside has been restarted. A repair was done on one of the new drain lines. One of the two 'leaning' posts at the

front entry has been corrected and the second is on the schedule to be corrected.

3. The new recycling bins were discussed. The discussion is to be continued.

4. Since our last meeting, Kerry has brought in a heavy, outside 'sandwich' sign.

5. The possibility of adding an oven to the Garden Level space was proposed. The committee decided that it was not possible at this time.

6. The efficiency of our solar panels was discussed. Although we did not have any documents at the time of our meeting, we reviewed it at a later date and determine that we were not paying anything for electricity, only about \$40.00 a month for 'transmission' charges.

7. The Committee has devoted most of our efforts since last fall to getting the classrooms up and running. Most other projects have been put on hold. We are trying to catch up with the day-to-day work of the committee.

Meeting approved the following Minute of Appreciation for Larry Greenleaf:

*Larry Greenleaf has donated countless hours of work for State College Friends Meeting as clerk of Buildings and Grounds over many years. His invaluable planning, skill, and physical labor have helped the meeting community immeasurably. As he steps down as clerk of Buildings and Grounds, State College Friends Meeting would like to express deep appreciation for all his contributions as clerk.*

## **Interfaith**

Lynne Grutzeck reported.

Interfaith Human Services is a collaboration of 32 Congregations working together to help our neighbors in need. Our mission is to help low-income families create long-term solutions to help them become more self-sufficient.

IHS 2015- 2016 Fiscal Year:

65 people received money management services.

283 people received help to remain in their homes.

237 people stayed warm last winter with help from the fuel bank.

353 families received free furniture and recycled appliances.

1,856 pieces of furniture were given free of charge to families in need.

159 families kept their lights on with help from IHS.

2 individuals received help to purchase a new prescription.

2 people received gasoline vouchers for out-of-county medical appointments.

Our biggest fund raiser is our Holiday Bell ringing. We raised \$24,000.00. last year. Our Meeting's day to help "ring the bell" this year is at Meyers Dairy on Friday, December 23rd from 9:00a.m. to 9:00p.m. The sign up schedule will be on the white board in the social room. Please sign up for your hour. Speak to Lynne Grutzeck for any additional information.

Everyone is encouraged to eat lunch or dinner with family and friends at Harrison's Restaurant November 7-13th. Twenty percent of your bill goes to Interfaith. Just mention that you are there for Interfaith.

## **YEARLY AND QUARTERLY MEETINGS AND OTHER FRIENDS ORGANIZATIONS**

Selden Smith reported that cough drops are now in the entry way for the cough and cold season.

“Before the Flood,” a documentary on global warming, was received by Selden with the understanding there will be a public screening. It was suggested we combine with Interfaith Power and Light, and do the screening in the garden level of the Meeting House.

*The Meeting approved use of the Meeting House for the documentary screening.*

A Foxdale resident suggested a second screening at Foxdale.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes were accepted as written.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Campbell Plowden announced that his mother will soon turn 100 years old.

Selden Smith alerted everyone to an article about his father-in-law in the current Town and Gown magazine. Someone else noted that Christine Ayoub is in today's paper.

Kerry Wiessmann announced that practice for the Christmas pageant will begin the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

**Next Business Meeting for Worship: December 4, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Selden Smith, Clerk  
Recording Clerk

Margy Frysinger,

**Attending:**

Kerry Wiessmann

Claudia Wilson

Lynne Grutzeck

Denise DeGeorge

Youri Plowden

Darlene Clark

Rob Nicholas

Marjorie E. Nelson

Renee Crauder

Elizabeth Pennock

Michael Grutzeck

Sunny Rehler

Campbell Plowden

Larry Greenleaf

Brosi Bradley

Ann Sidone

Gary Fosmire

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