

**FRIENDLY
CONNECTIONS**

State College Friends Meeting

**January 2017
Newsletter**



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

Happy New Year!

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

Page | 2

I am looking for someone to pick up newsletters once a month from Jaru (2 min from Foxdale) to deliver to the Foxdale Office, Renee will distribute them - if interested please email me @ SCFMNewsletter@gmail.com - Thanks!

Announcements

MOVING FORWARD with INCLUSION: A COMMUNITY FORUM

Monday, January 9th, from 7-9 p.m., in the Foxdale Village Auditorium

Join a variety of Centre County leaders to hear what our government, business and community organizations can and are doing to protect those who are most vulnerable in our society.

Among our Panelists:

Mike Pipe, Centre County Commissioner
Andrew Shubin, Pennsylvania Civil Rights Attorney
Kathleen Stehouwer, Asst. Dir., Women's Resource Center
Dr. Michelle Saylor, Bellefonte Area School Superintendent
Tom King, State College Asst. Manager for Public Safety and former Chief of Police

This forum will be held on Monday, January 9th, from 7-9 p.m., in the Foxdale Village Auditorium. There will be an opportunity to join small-action committees for follow-up actions.

Submit your questions now by sending an email to:
info@centrelgbtqa.org

Please include "MFWI Question" in the subject line.

State College Friends Meeting Winter Camping Trip – Feb 24th - 26th

We have rented 5 cabins at Black Mo Park from Friday afternoon, Feb. 24th to Sunday morning, Feb 26th at noon, for our annual State College Friends Meeting Winter Camping trip.

Page | 3

Each of the 5 cabin sleeps 6, has electric heat, bedrooms, living/dining room, kitchen and bath. Renters of cabins supply their own bedding (usually sleeping bags), towels, dishes, pots, pans and dinnerware. We all cooperate in bringing and preparing food for meals.

PLEASE let us know ASAP if you plan to attend the retreat and, if so, which night(s) you plan to stay overnight! We are aware that there may be last minute changes which might keep you from coming, but it is really helpful in planning if we know as soon as possible who is planning to come. That way we can make cabin roommates as compatible as possible. We especially need to know if you are definitely NOT coming this year, so that we know if we need to cancel a cabin.

If you plan to come, we need to know names of all participants (including friends you are bringing) and ages of anyone under age 18. Please include your e-mail and telephone #.

Contact me, Sunny by e-mail, suncst@gmail.com, or by phone, tel: [814-769-1400](tel:814-769-1400). Thanks!

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Meetings for Worship

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?



QUERIES

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Meeting for Worship

Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God?

As we worship is there a living silence in which we are drawn together by the power of God in our midst?

Is the spirit of our worship together one that nurtures all worshipers?

How does our Meeting respond when the vocal ministry seems inappropriate, or when the meeting for worship is consistently not gathered?

Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, and expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?

Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness, and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationship with others?

Have I experienced in worship that direct leading to listen or to speak, and have I been faithful to my own experience?



QUERIES
QUERIES

STATE COLLEGE FRIENDS MEETING
MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS

Twelfth Month 4th, 2016

Meeting began with silent worship and a reading of the Queries from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting on 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 overcommitment, 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?

One Friend responded that it's difficult to be simple and doubtfully wondered if it was easier when there was less stuff. Another said she was glad that simplicity and integrity were put together because they reinforce each other.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

A report from Buildings and Grounds was added and one Friend wanted to be included in the Outreach and Social Action report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Outreach and Social Action

Polly Dunn reported. Two questions were left over from last month. It had been suggested that the organizations the Meeting donated to should be reviewed. No alternative suggestions on how to do that were received, so the organizations will be reviewed as they had been in the past.

The Committee has not yet put out a call for who would be willing to organize the charitable dinners. Kerry is willing to do publicity. The Committee is asking for someone to start the fundraising dinners committee.

Renee Crauder reported on the Refugee Welcoming Committee. She wanted everyone to know a group was working on bringing a refugee family to State College. The group is hoping it will be a Syrian family.

Selden Smith reported that he had watched the movie, "Before the Flood." A viewing of the movie has been set for January 26th in the garden level, with a discussion afterward in the Meeting Room. The movie may also be shown at other churches. One idea is to take donations and show it at the State Theater. Since that costs \$500, one idea is to charge a \$5 admission and ask 5 churches to contribute \$100 each.

Lynne Grutzeck had three announcements: the Alternative Christmas Fair is today, the bell-ringing for Interfaith Human Services sign-up is for December 23rd, and signs that welcome neighbors in three languages are available from Ben Wideman for \$10.

Nominating Committee

Lynne Grutzeck reported. Bernie Hoffnar has agreed to clerk Buildings and Grounds, beginning in January.

This led Selden Smith to announce that the official transfer letter from Albuquerque Monthly Meeting has been received for Bernie and Ingrid Hoffnar. They are now members of State College Monthly Meeting.

Finance Committee

Connie Wheeler reported:

The budget for 2017 does not budget for deferred maintenance. The Meeting will initiate a Capital Campaign to reimburse the deferred maintenance fund because we have a number of upcoming major projects: parking lot, non-brick exterior, gutter work, and social room floor. The budget includes a significant increase in wages primarily to pay for the RE Coordinator for a full year. It also shows a modest increase in rentals as we plan to actively market our property for rentals this year. Connie noted that about two thirds of the budget is for this Meeting.

2016 budget update: final payments will be made this month to BYM, PYM, USQ. The \$4800 deferred maintenance expense will not be deposited into the deferred maintenance account in 2016 because we will need it for the new lights. Larry Greenleaf thinks he can get the same lights for less from a different supplier so the total light costs will be about \$3200 (instead of the projected \$5000). Floor baseboard still needs to be purchased and installed as well.

Meeting approved the 2017 Budget, with thanks.

The Capital Campaign for \$60,000 will be initiated in January. Yuri Plowden will investigate how to proceed. This will raise money to replenish our deferred maintenance funds. Work needs to be done on the parking lot, the gutters, the social room floor, and other things.

Katy Lumley-Sapanski will get information from Envinity on how much money we are making from the solar panels. Larry Greenleaf says we registered for a payment account.

Buildings and Grounds

Larry Greenleaf began by saying he was very happy to have Bernie becoming the clerk.

Work goes on in the garden level. Three things are not completed: the vinyl baseboard, shelving in the maintenance closet, and the lighting. The fluorescent lighting will be replaced with L.E.D. lighting. Larry has found a source for lighting at a substantial savings. We are anticipating a work party to install the vinyl baseboard.

Work on the outside has continued. A repair was done on the second 'leaning' post and it is now straight. Cedar veneer will be put on the posts in the future.

Regarding upcoming projects, the parking lot and the social room floor are first on the list. The old vinyl on the floor is pulling apart at the seams, letting water in, which increases the separation.

Religious Education

Sunny Rehler reported. In First Day School, the younger class visited Pennsdale Meeting and met with a historian writing a book on the Meeting. In the spring, Eliza Bradley will co-teach the class. Sunny expressed thanks for everyone who has been helping with the class.

The older class continues to visit Foxdale monthly as a service project. They also visited a synagogue and had two Muslims

come and talk with them about their religion. Vilmos Misangyi has been keeping attendance in case of future needs for those wanting to be conscientious objectors.

On December 3rd, a workshop entitled “Food That’s Real” was held at the Meeting. Eight participants enjoyed learning and eating together. The disappointment was that very few Friends attended.

Upcoming events: December 11th is the Christmas Pageant at Foxdale, December 18th Campbell Plowden will give a talk at 9:45 on Giving Back to Amazon Communities, and also on December 18th there will be a dinner potluck and the Candlelight Meeting for Worship. Sunny is also working on the annual retreat to Black Moshannon.

Friends School

Dan Hendey reported that the Spices event raised about \$17,000 for scholarships.

The school holds an event called “Everybody Writes Week.” Last year some students wrote to the Head of School asking for more stuff to play with at recess. This led to fundraisers this year to purchase new playground equipment. The children have been selling homemade yarn wrist bracelets to raise \$1000. There are plans for an “imaginative” playground. Research has shown that imagination play increases problem-solving skills.

The school is continuing to revise the budget due to lower enrollment.

A Foxdale resident expressed appreciation for the Peace Choir coming to Foxdale and singing with the Foxdale Choir. A large crowd attended.

Memorial Minute

Lynne Grutzeck read the minute on Ellis Oliver (Ollie) Jones (January 19, 1928 – October 25, 2016) prepared by Laurie Jeffreys:

Ellis Oliver Jones moved to Foxdale Village in State College three years ago and became a regular attender of State College Friends Meeting as his health allowed. Ollie, as we all knew him, was born in Pontiac, Michigan, the only child of Sybil Ellisa Ray Jones and Ellis O. Jones. While Ollie moved to State College from his home in Connecticut, he had retained his membership in the Friends Meeting of Washington, DC. He requested that his membership be transferred to State College Friends Monthly Meeting in May of this year.

Ollie found happiness when he met his wife, Anna Mary Miles. They were married on

June 22, 1949 in New Haven, Connecticut. Anna was a lifelong Quaker and a niece of Anna Shipley Cox Brinton. Ollie and Anna moved frequently during their long marriage, as is clear from the birthplaces of their four sons. Ellis was born in Glencove, NY, Charles in New Haven, CT, Barnard in Istanbul, Turkey, and Walter in Beirut, Lebanon.

Ollie valued education a great deal. He studied at Yale University, the University of Oxford, Columbia University, American University, and the Law School of Suffolk University.

He put his education to work as an economist, teacher, diplomat, international banker, and lawyer. More than that, he valued family, keeping his extended family and wide circle of friends abreast of one another's lives, and bringing them together whenever possible.

He believed in a peaceful settlement of differences. As a diplomat, he worked to help people know one another across ancient lines of ethnic and cultural conflict, and across language barriers. At Quaker-directed Foxdale Village he became an active member of the Diversity Committee. He also offered valuable insights on the history and cultures of the Middle East to quarterly discussions on the situation there that were led by a retired Professor of Middle Eastern History.

He served twenty-one years as a Foreign Service Officer in Turkey, Nigeria, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Yemen, and Guinea, and as a Professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado. He moved to Boston to support Anna's career in education. While there, Ollie attended night school to get his law degree. Until his retirement in Massachusetts, he worked as a banker, lawyer, and counselor to family and friends. Ollie was a deeply generous soul, the first to step forward when help was required or when he found that someone was suffering or in need. Ollie passed away on October 25, 2016 at Foxdale Village in State College, PA. He is survived by his four sons, eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild. A Quaker Memorial Meeting was held at Foxdale Village on November 25 under the direction of State College Friends Meeting.

While we mourn his loss, we celebrate his memory and his spirit.

Meeting accepted the minute with the correction of membership. Ollie was in the process of transferring his membership.

Social Action

Committee of the Whole.

Bernie Hoffnar has been part of Nittany Valley Water Coalition. They are opposing student housing the Toll Brothers wish to build in Ferguson Township. The apartments are very expensive, and are near the area water wells.

There was discussion about the Black Moshannon retreat after a question about including Upper Susquehanna Quarter. It was suggested that those who usually attend the retreat should have input. Sunny noted that responses are not good to email requests for input. No decision was made on how to proceed.

Larry Greenleaf notified the Meeting of a petition that Lynne Heritage is working on for a prisoner in jail for life without parole for a non-violent drug offense. He has further information.

We were asked to hold two people in the light: Gary Fosmire and Laurence Jones.

MINUTES

The minutes from November were accepted as written.

Next Business Meeting for Worship: January 8, 2017.

The Meeting closed with a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Selden Smith, Clerk
Recording Clerk

Margy Frysinger,

Attending:

Connie Wheeler

Polly Dunn

Martin Melville

Lynne Grutzeck

Michael Grutzeck

Claudia Wilson

Nicholas (Sunny) Rehler

Dan Hendey

Ann Sidone

Elizabeth Pennock

Renee Crauder

Larry Greenleaf

Note: I know others were present but did not sign. Could Friends confirm they were present? Thank you.

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RETURN REQUESTED