

**FRIENDLY
CONNECTIONS**

State College Friends Meeting

**March 2017
Newsletter**



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

Notes

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

Announcements

► SCFM Chili Dinner Fundraiser for 3rd Way Collective, Thursday, March 16, 5:30-7:00. There will be vegan and meat Chili available. There may even be pumpkin chili! Of course, there will be salad, tortilla chips, cornbread and desserts as well. Our last dinner was very successful, with about 65 people present! Join the crowd and bring a friend.

► The Bulletin will be issued every 2 weeks in the future. Please continue to send announcements to office@statecollegefriends.org. If an announcement needs to go out before the next bulletin, it will go out on the Meeting email list. The secretary will be out of the office this Thursday and Friday, March 2-3.

► **Interfaith Coffee Hour**, Webster's Bookstore, March 20, 6:30-8 pm. Suggested Discussion Topic: "What needs to change?" For example: What change needs to happen in your life? In our country or in the world? In our interfaith activities?

April Interfaith Coffee Hour (Webster's) – Special date: Monday, April 3, 6:30-8 pm – Suggested Discussion Topic: "What does unselfishness mean?"

Interfaith Panel (First Church of Christ, Scientist), April 27, 7-9 pm, Discussion Topic: "The Transforming Power of Unselfishness" – with panelists Reverend Dean Lindsey, Rabbi David Ostrich, Christian Science Practitioner Lois Carlson.

► **Rise-Up Singing.** Singing has been so much fun, we will continue on the 3rd Sunday each month. The next singing will be held on Mar. 19, 4-6 pm. Let's get together to sing old familiar songs from the best songbook ever. Bring friends!

► We're trying a new method of managing the **Refreshment and Potluck** sign up. Give it a try and let us know what you think of it.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b44aca92fa57-refreshments>

Please sign up to help with potluck and refreshments. We hope each member and/or attendee will help with set up and clean up for at least 1 potluck and 3 refreshment dates through the course of the year. You can always sign up for more, or just help out on any given day. Duties include bringing a snack on your designated day, setting up, and cleaning up. If you've never assisted with this before, no worries, there are plenty of people around to consult. A sign up Genius will circulate every three months, so if you can't do it this round, there will be more opportunities.

Calendar

Mar. 16 SCFM Fundraising Dinner for 3rd Way Collective

Mar. 18-19 Upper Susquehanna Quarter Creative Hands Gathering and Quarterly Meeting at State College Friends Meeting

Mar. 26 Right Sharing for World Resources program and meal, State College Friends School, 12:30-1:30 following SCFM meeting for worship at the school at 11:15 am.

Apr. 20 SCFM Fundraising Dinner for Women's Resource Center

May 18 SCFM Fundraising Dinner for Housing Transitions

Thinking About Race (March 2017) – Muslim Girl by Amani Al-Khatahbeh

Amani Al-Khatahbeh was nine years old on September 11, 2001, and could see the destruction of the World Trade Center towers from her home in New Jersey. **After that, experiencing anti-Muslim attitudes and behavior through her school years, she found her voice and founded www.MuslimGirl.com. It started as a blog in 2009 and turned into a highly popular, highly regarded website, thus giving voice to many others. Her book, Muslim Girl, A Coming of Age, describes her journey.**

“I feel that the horrible scapegoating we’ve had to endure has forced us into a corner of defensiveness, dissipating our energy in this endless game of pushing back against the misconceptions that ultimately victimize us. It makes me sad to think about all the resources the Muslim American community has been forced to waste for the past decade on campaigns, events, and media efforts to prove that we, too, are Americans; that we, too, are *human*, begging and pleading the public not to believe the racist rhetoric being spewed about us. I can’t imagine the types of institutions, programs, and civic society we could have cultivated for our community – the type of *backbone* we could have had the opportunity to grow – had we not been forced into this position.”
(pp. 44-45)

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

The Meeting Community

Are love and harmony within the Meeting community fostered by a spirit of open sharing? Do you endeavor to widen your circle of friendships within the Meeting, seeking to know persons of all ages and at all stages of the spiritual journey? Does the Meeting provide for the spiritual refreshment of all members and attenders? Do Friends provide spiritual and practical care for the elderly, the lonely, and others with special needs?



QUERIES
QUERIES

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Spiritual Nurture, Ministry, and Religious Education

Does our Meeting encourage the ministry of both word and deed? How does our Meeting recognize, develop, and nurture the gifts of our members and attenders of all ages?

Does our Meeting prepare all its members and children for worship and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends? How do we teach about Quaker practices in business and worship and their importance to the functioning of our Meeting community?

In what ways do we support each other in order to seek God's will and act upon our understanding of truth? Is there opportunity in our Meeting to share the excitement of religious discovery and the possibility of religious transformation?

Does our Meeting provide opportunities for all in the Meeting to learn about:

- the Inner Light, the living Christ within, the Bible, the writings of Friends, our Christian heritage, other religious traditions and their respective roles in the history and formation of Friends' principles?
- the common testimonies Friends declare?
- the variety of expression Quaker faith takes today?

Do I maintain as part of my personal and family life those daily practices that focus on continued spiritual growth, with disciplined worship, inward retirement, and communion with the divine spirit?

Do I frequently read the Bible and other religious literature, including the records of the lives and experiences of Friends? Do I take the time to explore these resources with others, and likewise encourage my children?

Do I share my own faith and spiritual journey, and encourage such sharing within my family?



STATE COLLEGE FRIENDS MEETING
MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS

Second Month 5th, 2017

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

Responses to the queries focused on inappropriate speaking. One Friend began by saying the response is to speak with Worship and Ministry Committee and not to approach the person individually. If the feeling is shared by Worship and Ministry, then the Committee handles the situation. Another Friend thought it would be ok to ask questions of the person speaking inappropriately as long as you do not express

disapproval. A memory was shared from years ago when someone attending Meeting gave a long, rambling message. A seasoned Friend took his hand and said, "Friend, give us time to consider your message." The speaker sat down. Another memory from someone else was a time in Philadelphia when a "ranter" began ranting. Everyone quietly stood, and he sat down. Those situations are clearer than someone who speaks every Sunday or someone who gives a message you wonder about. Is the person truly led to speak every week? Is this message for someone else? "Are you led, or just well read?" Another Friend said the value of silence is so real that it becomes difficult when some people speak too much.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Potluck and Refreshments

The sign-ups for potluck and refreshments are not drawing enough people to do the work. The Meeting discussed ways to increase the sign-ups. Yuri Plowden is willing to set up Sign-up Genius to be sent out to everyone. People can also sign up on the calendar in the kitchen. The person closing Meeting needs to remind everyone. Members and attenders are encouraged to sign up for four times a year.

Proposal to Make Bulletin Bi-weekly

Betsy Gamble, the Meeting secretary, proposed the change. In many instances the Bulletin is the same for two weeks in a row. Emails can be sent out as necessary. This would free some of Betsy's time.

Meeting approved the change to a bi-weekly Bulletin.

Betsy added that she is trying to keep the Bulletin announcements specific to the Meeting and Quakers. Another Friend said that events open to the public that are held at the meeting house should also be included.

Meeting approved the suggested framework for announcements.

Nominating Committee

Laurie Jeffreys reported. They have a small committee and wondered if the procedure for picking members could be changed. Nominating would like to pick their members and not go through Worship and Ministry. After some discussion, the following was approved:

Nominating Committee will come up with names and will refer them to Worship and Ministry for approval.

Nominating Committee is looking for feedback on combined committees. While Outreach and Social Action have not met, they are in contact through email. It was suggested that a contact person for social action events and questions would be helpful.

The lack of adult religious education was raised. Outreach and Social Action helps when someone requests doing a program, but they are not actively looking for programs. If anyone is interested in focusing on religious education programs, please contact Nominating Committee. The discussion will be continued next month.

Outreach and Social Action

Kerry Wiessmann presented a draft of a statement in response to recent threats to social justice. There was general approval that a statement is needed and we want to respond quickly. An ad-hoc committee of Michael Grutzeck, Kerry Wiessmann, Rob Nicholas, and Renee Crauder was named to proceed expeditiously. Selden Smith will be the point person for any

press questions. Dan Hendey asked to be copied on the statement so he could take it to the Friends School board.

Claudia Wilson asked Meeting about use of the facilities for groups needing a place to meet for social action. A discussion ensued about how the decision would be made whether people pay or not. It needs to be clear. Finance Committee is trying to increase rents to balance the budget. Several people thought there should be a Meeting connection, such as a Meeting person in the group. Buildings and Grounds Committee will confer with Outreach and Social Action, and the Meeting secretary to try to come up with a plan. Since there is a group needing space quickly, the Meeting approved the following:

Centre Action: Fierce affiliate can meet for free in the Meeting facilities next Tuesday.

Kerry Wiessmann then reported for the committee reviewing which local organizations to pick for donations. They came up with a number of organizations, and designed three ways to make contributions.

1. Potluck fundraisers will occur for Interfaith Human Services, Third Way Collective, the Women's Resource Center, and Housing Transitions. They were chosen based on their ability to draw people.
2. A jar will be put out at potlucks for contributions to other organizations.
3. A Charitable Giving Club has been organized by Katy Lumley-Sapanski. These will be Quaker or local organizations to which people can donate \$20/month. Katy will send out a link and you pay on-line.

In other Peace and Social Action reports, Campbell Plowden reported that he had a great visit with Mujaddid recently. Bernie Hoffnar reported that he is part of a committee called "Nittany Valley Water Network" that

encourages townships to elect people who manage the environment. Kerry Wiessmann announced an LGBTQA party at the meeting house on February 14th called “You Don’t Need Romance to Enjoy Valentine’s Day.” Renee Crauder wondered if the group trying for a refugee family will be thwarted by the immigration ban.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Bernie Hoffnar reported. Next Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m., will be a work time to finish the basement.

The Committee wants everyone to know that the Meeting facilities are facing some expensive repairs. One example is the parking lot, and other is electrical work in the building. Buildings and Grounds is working with the Finance Committee and will be bringing requests in the future.

Memorial Minute

Laurie Jeffreys read the following minute for Elwood Way:

Elwood A. Way

March 11, 1920 - December 31, 2016

Elwood was born on the Way Fruit Farm in Stormstown, Centre County, PA, the third child of Darlington Way and Ina Whitely Way. Elwood graduated from Port Matilda High School and attended Penn State for three and a half years until World War II made him choose to return to work on the farm rather than serve in the military. In 1947 he married Emily Hobbs, and they purchased Way Fruit Farm in 1950.

Elwood’s life’s work was raising fruit and improving the Way Fruit Farm orchards. He was interested in agriculture all his life and was a member of many agricultural organizations. He was a 75-year member of the Halfmoon Grange, a longtime member of the PA Farm Bureau, and a

founding member of the Centre County Agricultural Forum. As President of the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania in 1982, he revised and edited their history (published by the Association in 1985) bringing it up to date, from 1859 - 1984. Elwood was a 4-H Ag. leader in Halfmoon Township and a member of the Board of the Port Matilda Community Bank. He was interested in education and served on the consolidated State College Area School Board for many years. He served on the first Board of Trustees for Quaker-directed Foxdale Village, a continuing care retirement community in State College.

Elwood was raised in Centre Monthly Meeting in Halfmoon Township, Centre County, PA. A lifelong member of the Religious Society of Friends, he transferred his membership to State College Friends Meeting when Centre Monthly Meeting was laid down in 1950. While still a Penn State student he served as Clerk of State College Meeting, a position he held several more times in his adult life. He and his wife were active in Centre Quarterly Meeting, where Elwood served as Recording Secretary. He authored the book Quakers of Centre County. He served as a Trustee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, attending BYM yearly meetings and serving as a representative from State College Meeting. Locally Elwood served as a Meeting Trustee, on the Worship and Ministry, Care and Concern, and Finance Committees, and as SCFM representative to the board of Friends Cemetery in Stormstown, PA. His wise counsel will be missed.

Elwood passed away peacefully at his home in Foxdale Village on December 31, 2016. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Emily, their four sons, David (Terry), Donald, Brooks (Sharon), and Stanley (Anne), seven grandchildren, and four great-grand-children, brothers, Roger (Mary), and Ralph (Kamilla), and a sister, Rebecca. He was predeceased by brothers, Morris, Joe, and Robert. Elwood Way was a kind and sweet gentleman who led a very productive life, and we are all richer for it.

Meeting approved the memorial minute as presented.

Worship and Ministry Committee

Margy Frysinger reported.

The combined Worship & Ministry/Care and Concern Committee has been meeting monthly. We continue to monitor needs for pastoral care among Friends, so if anyone is aware of a need please let us know.

At last month's Business Meeting we were charged to find a committee to support Campbell Plowden in his prison work. We have found people happy to do that support.

The annual Spiritual State of the Meeting report is underway for BYM. We plan to bring a draft of the report to the March BMFW.

Upcoming events: Meeting for Worship and a Right Sharing lunch at Friends School on March 26th, Upper Susquehanna Quarterly Meeting here on March 19th (this will also be a "Creative Hands" gathering for the weekend), and we are planning the next MFW at Foxdale.

Finance Committee

Kerry Wiessmann reported. The Budget vs. Actual report is a guideline for spending. The contributions are about \$3500 more than budgeted because of some large, one time contributions. No money went into the deferred maintenance fund because the Meeting was dipping into it over and over for repairs and renovations.

Other items of note are the liability insurance bill arrived in January so does not show up in 2016. The bill for doing the floor has not been received from Friends School. The timing of those bills helped to decrease expenses. Payroll expenses were higher because of the RE clerk position. Those

expenses have been increased for this year's budget. Any questions about the reports should be directed to Connie Wheeler or Kerry Wiessmann.

Religious Education Committee

Sunny Rehler reported. Two of the five cabins at Black Moshannon have been filled. Since we have extra space, should the Meeting offer it to meetings from Upper Susquehanna Quarter, and should the Meeting offer some spaces for free?

Meeting approved offering spaces at the Black Moshannon Retreat to other meetings in USQ, with some free accommodations.

YEARLY AND QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Announcements were deferred due to time constraints.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes from January were accepted as written.

Next Business Meeting for Worship: March 5, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Selden Smith, Clerk
Clerk

Margy Frysinger, Recording

Attendance:

Kerry Wiessmann

Campbell Plowen

Yuri Plowden

Martin Melville

Michael Grutzeck

Lynne Grutzeck

Jo Bewley

N. (Sunny) Rehler

Rob Nicholas

Claudia Wilson

Brosi Bradley

Darlene Clark

Gary Fosmire

Ann Sidone

Loretta M. Jeffreys

Bernie Hoffnar

Renee Crauder

Betsy Gamble

Johanna Jackson

Jim Adams

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



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

RETURN REQUESTED