

**FRIENDLY
CONNECTIONS**

State College Friends Meeting

**April 2017
Newsletter**



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

Announcements

► **Underground Railroad.** Quakers played a key role in establishing Bellefonte as a stop on the Underground Railroad and the creation of a vibrant African-American community in the town. On April 9, at about 12:45 during social hour, Bob (Robert) Lumley-Sapanski will share some of the stories and pictures of the people and places important to this little known piece of Bellefonte's history.

► If you'd like to join the meeting monthly "**Giving Circle**", please contact Katy Lumley-Sapanski, kxL13@psu.edu. This is a group from meeting who commits to contribute \$20/month to an organization that is emailed to the group at the beginning of each month. So far we have contributed \$120 each month; in February the money went to FCNL, in March it went to the State College Friends School.

► **PYM Thread Gathering: Supporting Individual Calls to Ministry Peer Group Introduction**, Apr. 1, 11am-4:30 pm, Friends Center. This series will help participants learn and practice in small groups a process to foster their faithfulness to leadings. The series consists of 3 Saturday sessions held over a course of six months. Participants can attend session 1 in which the peer group process will be taught or all three sessions to better master the process. Additional sessions are June 24 and September 30.

Details: Lola Georg, <<mailto:lolageorg@gmail.com>>
lolageorg@gmail.com

► **Extended Meeting for Worship, Apr. 29, 9:15 am-3:15 pm, Plymouth Friends Meeting.** Would you like to deepen your experience of Worship? Have you wished that Worship didn't end when the clock struck the hour? The PYM Worship and Care Standing Committee and the Meeting on Worship and Ministry invite you to experience Extended Worship. Attend just a portion of the day or the full day. And remember to bring your lunch. For childcare, email by Mon., Apr.17. Details: Lola George, <<mailto:lolageorg@gmail.com>> lolageorg@gmail.com

► **Stoking the Fire 2017 - Early Bird pricing ends on March 31st.** Are you spiritually aflame, or a banked coal ready to be stirred into life? Join Friends as we stoke our spiritual fires and stretch ourselves through communal worship, learning, and fellowship. Together we will open ourselves to Christ's presence and power and allow the Spirit to work within us. Stoking the Fire is FUM's program for spiritual revival among North American Friends. This year's theme is "Claiming Spiritual Power for Transformative Action". The plenary leader will be Jan Wood, of Northwest Yearly Meeting. The dates are July 9-12, 2017, in Wichita, KS (immediately preceding the FUM Triennial). For more information, and to register, click here: http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/stoking_the_fire/

► Time to start rallying teams and walkers for this year's **Habitat for Humanity HouseWalk 2017!** We're super excited to be back at Tudek Memorial Park on **Sunday, April 23rd** for our fun, family-friendly event.

Event details can be found [here](#). If you're ready to register, you may do so [here](#). If you'd like to set up an online fundraising page to use social media and email to get support from far and wide, you may do so [here](#). And last, if you'd like to download printable walker packets and fliers, you can find that [here](#).

If you would like a Habitat rep to come talk with your group, please let me know. We're ready to come share good news about our plans for 2017. Also, if you would prefer a printed copy of the HouseWalk info to insert into weekly bulletins, please let me know. We'd be happy to provide.

Let's keep building!

On behalf of Habitat For Humanity, Greater Centre County,
Ken Kline Smeltzer

Report from Winter Retreat

By Sunny Rehler

From Feb. 24-26th on the last weekend in February, many of us gathered for our traditional Winter Retreat at Black Moshannon State Park. This year there were only 12 Friends, who stayed overnight in cabins, but another 8 folks came out for all or part of the day on Saturday. Among the 20 participants, 7 were students in our First Day School (FDS).

Although an evening hike had been planned on Friday evening, most of the campers arrived so late that the hike was postponed to Saturday morning. .

Saturday morning activities included Silent Worship, hiking to lake and baking cookies. Everyone contributed generously to the meals and we had no less than 3 choices for soup for our lunch on Saturday!

Following lunch clean-up, David Archibald led games and team-building activities for kids of all ages. I was amazed to see how 14 of us could all stand with both feet on a large tarp and find ways to flip the tarp over without anyone stepping off the tarp! This was done once even without using hands!

Sunna DeForest then led many of us in a suburb yoga session to stretch any joints not already stretched or strained during the tarp-turning.

The highlight of the weekend was a drum circle led by my guest

Tim Summers, who has about 12 years experience with African drumming using Djembe drums. I was interested to learn that the word “Djembe” (from the language of Bambara) actually translates into the words: “Everyone gather together in peace”. How appropriate for a Quaker retreat!

After Martin Melville gave instruction in laying a campfire, we ate dinner and there was a gathering around the fire; few of us were deterred by the cold air and snow flurries.

About 3 PM on Saturday, our oldest FDS teenager, Lars, mentioned that he wanted to take a walk and headed for the woods. Apparently no one knew exactly where he was planning to walk or when he expected to return. He had not yet returned by dinnertime so we tried to call him on his cell phone, but unfortunately there was no cell-phone service there. Finally he walked up to the cabin where we were all assembled about 8 PM

He said that he had planned to walk “around the lake”, thinking that the trail was only 4 miles. However it was actually 8 miles and had lost the trail, possibly due to the darkness after sunset. Fortunately he finally found a resident in a remote cabin, who were kind enough to give him a ride back to our cabins in another part of the park. **Brosi’s editor note: Despite going to Black Moshannon frequently it has been the place where I have also been lost several times, perhaps we could all follow Sunny’s tips and Lar’s wisdom to ask another for help when we are physically lost as well as spiritually, while also not keeping us from wandering into the wilderness**

Based on my perspective as a longtime outdoor enthusiast, this reinforces guidelines for hiking given by most wilderness experts. To be specific, it is recommended especially when hiking in unfamiliar territory:

- 1) to find a hiking “buddy”, if possible.
- 2) to let a friends or family member know where one is planning to hike and how long.

On Sunday campers dispersed after Meeting for Worship, brunch and many hugs.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Personal Spiritual Life

Do you make time for meditation, prayer and worship? Do you read the Bible, the writings of Friends, and other inspirational works, seeking new light? Do you regularly seek God's guidance? Are you open to guidance and support and do you give thanks for them? Do you share your spiritual insights with others and willingly receive from them in turn?



QUERIES
QUERIES

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Care for the Meeting Community, Care for one another

Are love and unity maintained among us? When conflicts exist, are they faced with patience, forbearance, and openness to healing? Are avenues for exploring differences kept open? To what extent does our Meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?

Is the Meeting a safe, loving place? When we become aware of someone's need, do we offer assistance? Are the meetinghouse and the Meeting property physically accessible to all?

Do all adults and children in our Meeting receive our loving care and encouragement to share in the life of our Meeting, and to live as Friends? Do we truly welcome newcomers and include them in our Meeting community?



QUERIES
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When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the Meeting respond?

How does our Meeting keep in touch with all its members?

Am I ready to offer assistance as part of my religious community serving its members? Am I equally willing to accept graciously the help of others?

Do I recognize and face disagreements and other situations that put me in conflict with others? Do I manifest a spirit ready to give or receive forgiveness?

Do I treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension? Is my manner with visitors and attenders to my Meeting one of welcome?

Care in my home

(This set of personal queries may be helpful for the family to consider within the family setting. Families may also wish to explore other General Queries as part of regular family worship.)

Is my home a place where all members of the family receive affection and understanding, and where visitors are welcome? Do I choose recreation and a manner of living that enriches the body, mind, and spirit; and shows a high regard for family, community, and creation?

Is our family prepared to discuss such sensitive topics as death, faith, money, even sex and drugs, in a manner that allows openness and honesty, and also direction?

How do I help to arrange life at home so that there is an opportunity for all to learn and absorb by example what it means to live a life of Spirit-led commitment?



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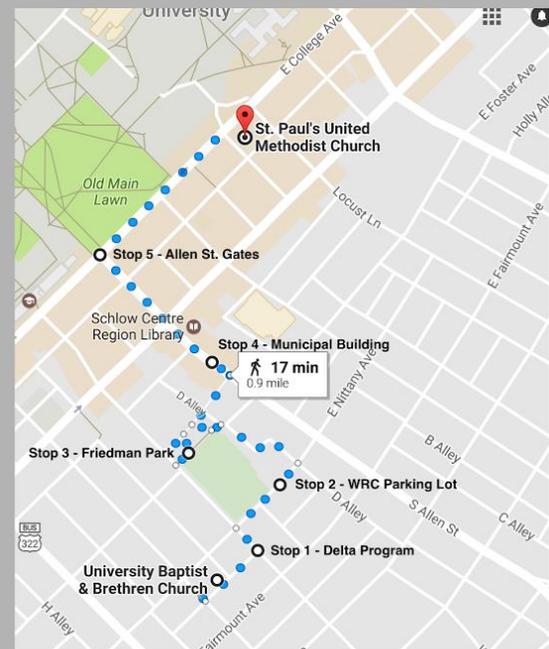


Palm Sunday Peace Walk State College

3pm, April 9th, 2017

State College's second annual Palm Sunday Peace Walk is a participatory community event focused on bringing together our diverse community to acknowledge ways we work for peace by serving the people Jesus called us to serve; the poor, the sick, the isolated, the downtrodden and imprisoned.

This 1 mile walk starting at 3pm on Sunday, April 9th will begin at University Baptist & Brethren Church and visit five stops along the way to hear voices of peace from our community and pray for peace and healing in our divided world. We will end at St. Paul's United Methodist Church for a simple soup meal together.



People of all ages and faiths are welcome to join.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1431225013589533/>

Sponsored by the area churches and 3rd Way Collective.
Contact Ben Wideman at 3rd Way Collective for questions or more information.
ben@3rdwaycollective.org or (215) 859-0037

Thinking About Race - (April 2017) James Baldwin

Excerpt from Review: "I Am Not Your Negro" Will Make You Rethink Race - by A.O. Smith in the New York Times, February 2, 2017.

"Baldwin could not have known about Ferguson and Black Lives Matter, about the presidency of Barack Obama and the recrudescence of white nationalism in its wake, but in a sense he explained it all in advance. He understood the deep, contradictory patterns of our history, and articulated, with a passion and clarity that few others have matched, the psychological dimensions of racial conflict: the suppression of black humanity under slavery and Jim Crow and the insistence on it in African-American politics and art; the dialectic of guilt and rage, forgiveness and denial that distorts relations between black and white citizens in the North as well as the South; the lengths that white people will go to wash themselves clean of their complicity in oppression."

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.

**STATE COLLEGE FRIENDS MEETING
MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS
Third Month 5th, 2017**

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

Responses to the Queries included one Friend expressing that children also learn by viewing. That was how she got the concept of Quakers. Be mindful of how we mirror our beliefs for each other. Another Friend thought one of our members could lead a group on readings, especially the Advices, on Sunday mornings. Another Friend responded that each Query warrants an hour of study. She had an image of Quakers 100 years ago using their journey to meeting as a way to get ready for Meeting. They could enjoy nature. It's harder for us to be more in touch and to be ready for Meeting when we get here.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

A partial memorial minute was added to the Agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Worship and Ministry

Margy Frysinger reported. Standing together in a circle for joys and sorrows has been tried for several months and the Committee has collected some feedback on how Friends feel about it. We are aware that some people are not comfortable with it for various

reasons and that others like it very much. Is there anyone present who has not yet had an opportunity to say how she or he feels about it?

At our last meeting, we wondered about the idea of trying it once a month. For example, it could be on the second First Day of each month. How would Friends feel about that?

After some discussion,

The Meeting approved doing the circle once a month, on the second First Day of the month.

On other subjects, we plan to have Meeting for Worship at Foxdale next First Day, on March 12th. We will have someone at the meeting house to redirect people, and we will ask Betsy to send out an email next week to alert everyone.

The last item is the Spiritual State of the Meeting report for Baltimore Yearly Meeting. This is a draft, so changes can be made before we need to send it to BYM next month. You can provide feedback today, and people can also email me with feedback and Worship and Ministry will make a final copy at the end of the month.

In the ensuing discussion, some recommendations were made for changes. Worship and Ministry will revise the document and bring it to the next MFWFB.

Religious Education

Sunny Rehler reported. The winter retreat at Black Moshannon filled 3 cabins. About 12 people stayed overnight and there were

about 20 people there on Saturday. Activities included hiking, baking cookies, worship both days, team-building for all ages, yoga, a drum circle, and a campfire.

RE still needs assistants for the younger group for the rest of the year. Let Sunny know if you are willing to help.

RE will be meeting in April to plan the rest of the year.

Meeting approved a minute of appreciation for Sunny Rehler and all he has done to help with Religious Education.

Finance Committee

Kerry Wiessmann reported. The fundraising dinner for Interfaith Human Services was a success, with about \$950 raised. Expenses were kept down by some of the food coming in as a donation. The next one is March 16th, for the Third Way Collective. They sent the announcement out to all their contacts, so we anticipate another well attended Chili dinner with 4 different types of chili being served. April 20th is a Tacos and Enchiladas dinner for the Women's Resource Center and May 18 is a Chicken and Vegan Loaf dinner for Housing Transitions.

Finance Committee is wondering about the idea of having a car trunk sale to raise money for the Meeting. People sell garage sale type items out of the trunk of their car in our parking lot. A possible date is April 23rd with a rain date of April 30th. The ensuing discussion involved questioning whether Friends are comfortable with including the larger community in a fundraiser for the Meeting. Some are not comfortable with that idea and others are fine with it. Yard sales are a service in some ways, and include outreach. Some Friends want to bring people in, but not

have money involved.

Meeting approved trying the trunk sale one time, focused on us (but not turning others away). We will then evaluate the event.

Finance Committee was asked to work out the details.

Buildings and Grounds

Bernie Hoffnar reported. The Committee is requesting a minute for the Centre for LBGTQA support network to use the ground level area without charge. They will have their own designated closet. A member of SCFM must be involved.

A concern was expressed about singling out CLSM when other groups didn't need a minute to use closet space. Buildings and Grounds Committee members said they realized they were setting a precedent and wanted to be thoughtful about it. Friends School uses one closet in the garden level but it is in their contract. It was decided that an approval rather than a minute would more closely fit normal procedures.

Meeting approved CLSM's use of a closet and the garden level for meetings without charge.

Friends School

Dan Hendey reported. The school recently had "Quakers in the Classroom" day. It was a wonderful success. Currently the school only has one Quaker teacher and one Quaker student, so the school very much appreciates people coming to talk about Quakerism. Having conviction is a choice in life, and the school tries to teach that.

On March 26th, Meeting for Worship will be held at the school, then a Right Sharing luncheon will be served. Participants will be assigned a country and will then eat a normal meal for that country.

In other news, the school held a basketball clinic once a week for 8 weeks. That was a success. Enrollment for next year, however, is not going well. It is now about 15 students behind last year's enrollment. No one is sure why. The "break-even" for the school is about 120. Eighty percent of the budget is benefits and salaries. They are considering what options are available to right-size the school.

Memorial Minute

Laurie Jeffreys read a minute about Dick Taber, who was a member of a Meeting in Illinois but attended this Meeting for several years.

Richard Taber, born to Esther Wilcox Taber and M. Louis Taber on April 23, 1932, grew up on a family farm and attended Scattergood Friends Boarding School in Iowa. During these formative years, he developed his love for learning, travel, history, and his deep abiding Quaker convictions.

After earning a Master's degree in Social Work, Richard worked with disturbed children in different community settings for several years. The majority of this work life was spent as a school social worker in northern Illinois. However, for over ten years he alternated periods of work with world travel, covering many continents.

In 2004 Dick moved to Foxdale Village, A Quaker-directed continuing-care community in State College, Pennsylvania, where he became a familiar figure in town and at State College Friends Meeting. He could

be seen bicycling and walking around town, manning the lights at Foxdale events, and hauling cardboard for recycling as a member of the Foxdale Green team. He was a regular attender at Meeting as long as his health allowed. He made it clear to his family how much he valued the friends and acquaintances he made at Foxdale Village and at Friends Meeting.

Dick was a gentle, kind, and loving man who embraced Quaker values and non-violence to the end of his life.

Meeting approved the minute with the addition of "He was a gentle and loving person."

Peace and Social Action, Individual Reports

Lynne Grutzek announced that Interfaith Human Services is looking for appliances.

Polly Dunn said that Marge Nelson and Bob Lumley-Sapanski will be speaking about their journeys for adult education. They may try a different time and speak after refreshments.

Kerry Wiessmann said that a Catholic Church in Chicago is offering sanctuary for refugees. She wondered if we could do something similar, even though we can't house anyone.

FRIENDS ORGANIZATIONS; OTHER LOCAL CHURCHES

Selden Smith notified the Meeting that the Jewish Community Center asked if they could use our meeting house as a temporary sanctuary if they receive a threat.

Meeting immediately approved and asked that Selden incorporate our support and concern for them into our response.

Selden announced that American Friends Service Committee is holding a Waging Peace Summit on April 20th to 23rd. It's AFSC's Centennial Year. They also have a centennial exhibit to have in State College if we are interested.

On Palm Sunday, State College's peace churches are sponsoring a Peace Walk. It is on April 9th beginning at 3:00 p.m. at the Church of the Brethren.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes have not yet been published so will be reviewed next month.

Next Business Meeting for Worship: April 2, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Selden Smith, Clerk
Recording Clerk

Margy Frysinger,

Attendance:

Connie Wheeler
Kerry Wiessmann
Yuri Plowden
Lynne Grutzeck
Katy Lumley-Sapanski
Claudia Wilson
Gary Fosmire
Ann Sidone
Bernie Hoffnar

Susan Knox
N. (Sunny) Rehler
Michael Grutzeck
Martin Melville
Laurie Jeffreys
Rob Nicholas
Larry Greenleaf
Ingrid Hoffnar
Renee Crauder

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