

**FRIENDLY
CONNECTIONS**

State College Friends Meeting

**November
2017
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

Page | 2

Announcements

First Day (Sunday), 11/5/2017

Fall Time Change

9:00 am Meeting for Worship for Business

10:45 am First Day School

10:45 am Gather for Meeting for Worship

11:00 am Meeting for Worship

12:20 pm Pot Luck

► Friends will be saddened to learn of the death of Tom Ryan at Foxdale Village, Tuesday, Oct. 17. Tom had been living at Foxdale for many years as his health failed. Tom had served as Clerk of State College Friends Meeting, Clerk of State College Friends School, and on the first Board of Trustees of Foxdale Village. Additional information on a memorial service is not yet available. Messages of condolence may be sent to Lauri Perman (spouse), [1448 W. Park Hills Ave., State College, PA 16803](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1448+W.+Park+Hills+Ave.,+State+College,+PA+16803) or Nate Ryan (son), [222 Otis Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104](https://www.google.com/maps/place/222+Otis+Ave.,+St.+Paul,+MN+55104).

► Sign up for hospitality on the new Signup Genius link for refreshments and potluck through mid November. Please consider signing up. Potluck dates for Oct. and Nov. to be announced:

<<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b44aca92fa57-state2>> <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b44aca92fa57-state2>

► First Day School is requesting help from the Meeting community. We would like to have an "assistant" teacher each week so that the teacher is not alone. Please click on the link below to sign up. There is a list of dates and a choice of which age group you would like to visit (k-4th grade, 5th-8th grade or high school). Here is the link:

<<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4ea5a72ca31-assisting>> <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4ea5a72ca31-assisting>

► We will gather again for Rise Up Singing at the Meetinghouse on the 3rd Sunday, Nov. 19, 4-6 pm. Bring your voice or instrument & have some fun!

► Interfaith Initiative Centre County Coffee Hour, 3rd Tuesday, 6:30-8 pm, Sept.-Feb. at Webster's Bookstore and Cafe Community Room.

Calendar

Nov.2-5 FCNL Annual Meeting, Washington DC.

Nov.3-5 FGC Retreat for Friends of Color, Stony Point Retreat Center

Nov.4 PYM Continuing Sessions, Arch St. Meeting House

Nov.11 BYM Called Eleventh Month Interim Meeting, 1-6 pm, Sandy Springs Friends Meeting

More Information: Baltimore Yearly Meeting (<http://www.bym-rsf.org/> www.bym-rsf.org), Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (<http://www.pym.org/> www.pym.org), Upper Susquehanna Quarterly Meeting (<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/upper-susquehanna-quarterly-meeting> <https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/upper-susquehanna-quarterly-meeting>), Friends General Conference (<http://fgcquaker.org/> fgcquaker.org), Pendle Hill (<http://www.pendlehill.org/> www.pendlehill.org); Friends Committee on National Legislation (<https://www.fcnl.org/> <https://www.fcnl.org>)

Thinking About Thinking About Race (November 2017) – Stirring Words

The one-year mark of the presidential election is a good time to recall words from 2015 that may help us feel inspired and, perhaps, even hopeful: **Remarks by the President at the 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Marches**, Edmund Pettus Bridge, March 7, 2015. (It also reflects today's emotional issues around taking a knee.)

“What greater expression of faith in the American experiment than this, what greater form of patriotism is there than the belief that America is not yet finished, that we are strong enough to be self-critical, that each successive generation can look upon our imperfections and decide that it is in our power to remake this nation to more closely align with our highest ideals?

....“It's the idea held by generations of citizens who believed that America is a constant work in progress; who believed that loving this country requires more than singing its praises or avoiding uncomfortable truths. It requires the occasional disruption, the willingness to speak out for what is right, to shake up the status quo. That's America.

“Because Selma shows us that America is not the project of any one person. Because the single-most powerful word in our democracy is the word “We.” “We The People.” “We Shall Overcome.” “Yes We Can.” That word is owned by no one. It belongs to everyone. Oh, what a glorious task we are given, to continually try to improve this great nation of ours.”

- President Barack Obama

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



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?



QUERIES
QUERIES

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?

STATE COLLEGE FRIENDS MEETING
MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS

Tenth Month 1st, 2017

Page | 8

Meeting began with silent worship and a reading of the Queries from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting on Stewardship of the Environment:

Is the Meeting concerned that human interaction with nature be responsible, guided by a reverence for life and a sense of the splendor of God's continuing creation?

Are the decisions of the Meeting and its committees relating to the uses of property, goods, services, and energy made with sensitivity toward the environmental impact of those choices?

How does our Meeting learn about environmental concerns and then act in the community on its concerns?

How am I helping to develop a social, economic, and political system which will nurture an environment which sustains and enriches life for all?

Am I aware of the place of water, air, and soil in my life? Do I consider with care the necessity of purchasing substances hazardous to the environment? Do I act as a faithful steward of the environment in the use and disposal of such hazardous substances?

Do I choose with care the use of technology and devices that truly simplify and add quality to my life without adding an undue burden to essential resources?

One Friend responded that she is fortunate to live in an area with composting and recycling, and the support to do it. Other places it is not so easy. Another Friend said she was encouraged to hear on the radio that a great green wall is being built in the Sahara with plantings to hold back the desert. Another Friend said it is important to let your actions be guided by love in the divine sense rather than anger and fear, which alienate those we try to address, more than if we spoke in love.

CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

A report from the Memorial Committee was added.

REPORTS

Friends School

Dan Hendey reported. The school has 95 students in K to 8th grade, and around 20 to 25 in pre-K. The enrollment is lower than previous years, but the year did start well. They have had two potlucks with school families that all enjoyed. The emphasis for the year is “reasserting our expectations for students and ourselves that we are a Quaker school and need to live by that.”

The low enrollment means they are looking hard at their structure for the future. There are five charter schools in the area and Delta program has been expanded. That has led to increased pressure to figure out how to go forward. But they are hopeful and have options to consider.

One question raised was how many from pre-K end up attending the school. Dan responded that it varies from 3 or 4 up to 8 students.

Dan said the school needs an assistant teacher since the one hired had to withdraw. Dorothy Habecker is filling in until they find someone. Dan is teaching physical education and math, which reduces his time for administrative work. Enrollment is an ongoing issue as well as having enough Quakers to serve on the Board.

The Spices Gala is on November 12th. Dan asked everyone to please come and celebrate.

A Friend who went to USQM at Crystal Lake said Greenwood Friends School is going through similar issues. Their Head of School was looking forward to talking with Dan about options and ideas.

Worship and Ministry Committee

Martin Melville reported. The Committee discussed pen pal requests the Meeting receives from prisoners. They are usually in prison in Florida. The Committee is not aware of anyone in the Meeting who is led to respond at this time. Martin asked those assembled if anyone felt that leading. When there was no response, the idea was presented of having a form letter that told the prisoner we had received his or her letter but did not have anyone to respond at this time. Gary Fosmire read the draft of a form letter. With a few minor changes, the letter was accepted. One Friend wondered if South East Yearly Meeting, which covers Florida, could be of assistance. Melady Kehm said she has contacts at Fort Meyers Friends Meeting. She will contact them and ask if they know about the Yearly Meeting's ability to respond.

Martin continued that some Meeting groups have provided opportunities to get together and get to know each other better, for example the gardening group and the Rise up Singing group. The Committee would like to encourage Friends to think about other opportunities for meaningful interactions.

In other Worship and Ministry announcements, Meeting for Worship has been scheduled to be held at Foxdale on December 10th, a welcoming dinner is scheduled for Gabrielle Wiessmann on October 5th, and Martin will now be the person to contact for Worship and Ministry concerns.

Memorial Committee

Laurie Jeffreys reported that she received the corrections for the Memorial Minute for Mary Thom. She also learned some new information and added the date of Mary's death. The Memorial Minute has been sent to Friends Journal and was published in last month's newsletter.

REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS

At Claudia Wilson's request, Gary read a letter from Park Forest Preschool about participation in Christmas Holiday Boxes for Park Forest Preschool students. After some questions and discussion about more clarity on what is needed,

Meeting approved supporting the holiday boxes.

MINUTE OF APPRECIATION

Meeting approved the following minute of appreciation for Dorothy Habecker, the gardening group, and the First Day School Students:

State College Friends Meeting wishes to minute its appreciation to Dorothy Habecker for her leadership in forming the gardening group, for encouraging the First Day school students to plant their own flower garden, and for developing the pollinator plantings. The flowers and grounds of the meeting have never looked nicer and have been a source of delight for those attending Meeting. Our appreciation also goes to those many individuals who volunteered for the gardening group and to our young Friends who planted and tended their garden of flowers under Dorothy's encouragement and inspiration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marjorie Nelson announced that today (10/1/17) is World Quaker Day. She requested approval for announcing the theme of “Gathering in Worship Around the Globe” at the beginning of Meeting for Worship.

Meeting approved Marjorie making the announcement.

Yuri Plowden announced that the donation box would be out at potluck to raise money for Park Forest Preschool.

The Fall Harvest Dinner is October 14th. Please RSVP.

The AFSC banner display and celebration is October 4th at 7:30p.m. at the Pasquerella Center.

REQUESTS TO VISIT

BYM's Working Group on Right Relationship with Animals has requested a visit between now and next summer. Margaret Fisher from Herndon Friends Meeting would like to have an adult discussion group. While Friends felt it would be good to get other points of view and meet other Friends, we would need to make it clear that we cannot guarantee any number of people to attend. It was suggested that we invite her to Meeting for Worship with a discussion afterward. It was also suggested that we advertise outside the Meeting and on the Facebook page.

The co-clerk of the BYM Camping Program, Harry Scott from York Friends Meeting, requested to visit on December 10th to talk about the location of one of the camps. Since that is the date we will be at Foxdale, Gary will write to him and say we would welcome him on a different date.

OTHER ITEMS

A question was raised about the makeup of the Library Committee. Kim Kilmore is willing to help as is Gary Fosmire. They will meet with Melady Kehm.

Next Business Meeting for Worship: November 5th, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Fosmire

Clerk

Margy Frysinger

Recording Clerk

ATTENDENCE

Connie Wheeler

Lynne Grutzeck

Melady kehm

Marjorie E. Nelson

Yuri Plowden

Polly Dunn

Martin Melville

Ann Sidone

Laurie Jeffreys

Becky Misangyi

**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