

**FRIENDLY  
CONNECTIONS**

**State College Friends Meeting**

**December  
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](mailto:SCFMNewsletter@gmail.com) by 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month**

## **Announcements**

Page | 2

### **First Day (Sunday), 12/3/2017**

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 of Luck

## **Calendar**

Dec. 3 SCFM Meeting for Worship for Business, 9 am

Dec.10 SCFM Meeting for Worship at Foxdale, 11:15 am & Christmas Pageant (see info below)

Dec.17 Rise Up Singing, SCFM, 4-6 pm

Jan. 14 Margaret Fisher, Working Group on Right Relationship with Animals, SCFM, 12:30 pm

Jan. 21 Harry Scott, BYM Camping program, SCFM 12:30 pm

► Sign up for hospitality on the Signup Genius link for refreshments and potluck for dates for Nov. through Jan.:

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

► **Bell Ringing** time is here. Our day is Saturday, December 23rd at Meyer's Dairy from 9am-9pm. Proceeds go to Interfaith Human Services. Sign-up sheet to ring the bell at the wishing well for one hour is on the white board. Please sign up. Questions- speak to Lynne Grutzeck at <tel: 814-237-1862. Hurry! the best times go quickly!

► Please bring cans of corn, green beans and cranberry sauce for **Park Forest Preschool!**

Park Forest Preschool is asking for help this year to complete their holiday boxes. Each family receives a box filled with items to make a holiday meal as well as many essentials and gifts for the children. Our First Day School classes are collecting bath items and toys (see below), but at the last meeting for worship with attention to business we also agreed to contribute canned corn, green beans and cranberry sauce - enough for 30 boxes. A cardboard box has been put out by the kitchen – please bring some cans by December 3rd. (Amy Pritchett, [amypilot@icloud.com](mailto:amypilot@icloud.com))

Remember FDS is also collecting: \* a new toy or puzzle that costs no more than \$15 \* body wash

► **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>>

► The **memorial service for Tom Ryan** will be at the State College Friends Meetinghouse on Sat., Dec. 9, at 2 pm with a reception following. Tom has been unable to attend Meeting for several years, but he and Lauri are members and raised their son, Nate, in Meeting. Nate will be returning from Minnesota and it was his wish that the service be at the Meetinghouse rather than Foxdale. Since Foxdale has sheltered so many of our older Friends, we have had few services at the Meetinghouse, and we are pleased that Nate would want it here.

We will be serving cookies, coffee, and juice after the service, and will need contributions of cookies from Friends and attenders. If you can contribute, especially if you have a recipe for gluten free cookies, please let me know by responding to <mailto:[lauriejeffreys59@gmail.com](mailto:lauriejeffreys59@gmail.com)> [lauriejeffreys59@gmail.com](mailto:lauriejeffreys59@gmail.com). Other finger foods would be welcome too - vegetables, fruit, etc.

Laurie Jeffreys, for the Memorial Committee

► Once again it is time for the **Christmas Pageant**, and we want ALL (ages of) you wonderful people to be in the pageant. We will perform at Foxdale at the rise of Meeting on Dec. 10. We need the usual cast of players so please volunteer!

-Dec, 3 at 9:30 we run through the whole play two or three times.

-Dec. 10 at 9:30 AT FOXDALE we have a dress rehearsal in the Foxdale auditorium where worship will be at 11:15 (and kids carol for the residents).

**Even if you can't make every practice**, if you will be here on December 10, please consider being in the pageant, it is fun for everyone. Contact Kerry Wiessmann.

► **Out of the Cold Program:** Friends Meeting has agreed to provide volunteers for the local Out of the Cold Program which provides a warm and safe overnight accommodation and nourishment in local churches for the homeless in our community. We are working with the University Baptist and Brethren Church to be hosts for the evenings of December 4th through December 17th. The guests will be staying at UBBC. There are 3 ways to volunteer: (1) provide food for an evening meal or a breakfast and help to serve the food; (2) be there in the evening to greet the guests, register them, and interact with them; (3) stay overnight with the guests. You can volunteer for one evening or more.

We are now beginning to set dates for next week for an hour long orientation that is required of volunteers.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for this program, please contact Dorothy Habecker:  
<<mailto:dorothyhab@gmail.com>> [dorothyhab@gmail.com](mailto:dorothyhab@gmail.com); phone or text: [814-574-0606](tel:814-574-0606)

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

► Registration is open for 2018 **BYM Women's Retreat**, Jan.26-28, Pearlston Retreat Center, Reisterstown, MD: <<https://www.bym-rsf.org/events/yevents/women18.html>> <https://www.bym-rsf.org/events/yevents/women18.html>

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## Questions by Quakers:

*\*As newsletter editor- I would like to start including questions (and perhaps in the future answers) – by members in our meeting – my first question being : What are some good questions & Lynne, Michael, and Renee were luckily for us, but perhaps unlucky for them, to be the first people I asked, but also gracious enough to answer – thank you!*

*Please email me at [scfmnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:scfmnewsletter@gmail.com) if you would like to add new questions or add thoughts to these- thanks!*

How to live out what you believe?

*Renee Crauder*

How does it feel to be a long time Quaker?

Does it get old?

Is Quakerism still fresh and vital?

Is it enough to be a Sunday Quaker ?

Is it okay to associate with Quaker legacy ?

*Michael Grutzeck*

How do you deal with Quaker guilt?

*Lynne Grutzeck*

## **Thinking About Race** (December 2017) Beyond William Penn and the Leni Lenape

At the end of the 18th century, Friends were alarmed by continued public detestation of and violence toward Native Americans and feared they would be exterminated as a people. The Quakers' desire for just and humane treatment of the First Americans brought together a collection of Friends who would systematically focus on this matter. The Indian Affairs Committee, a standing committee established in 1795, is Baltimore Yearly Meeting's oldest, continuously operating committee working on a social concern and specifically addressing the concerns of people of color. It was one of the first two committees to which women were appointed.

Since then, Friends from BYM have interacted in various ways — both in-depth and informal—with citizens of the Shawnee, Wyandotte, Miami, Delaware, Iroquois, Seneca, Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Tuscarora, Santee Sioux, Winnebago, Omaha, Nennah, Otoe, Pamunkey, Mattaponi, Lumbee, Navajo, Piscataway, and Rappahannock Native Nations. In early times, relationships were closest with Shawnee, Seneca and Iroquois people, more recently with Navajo, Lumbee, and Piscataway people. (Some of these tribes now use their own, non-western names; for example, the Iroquois are actually the Haudenosaunee.)

To get involved in community education or advocacy, contact Indian Affairs Committee Clerk Sara Horsfall (Patapsco) at [817-875-4016](tel:817-875-4016) [shorsfall99@hotmail.com](mailto:shorsfall99@hotmail.com) or Pat Powers (Sandy Spring) at [301-460-4939](tel:301-460-4939) [patricia\\_r\\_powers@yahoo.com](mailto:patricia_r_powers@yahoo.com).

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

## 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?



QUERIES  
QUERIES  
QUERIES

## 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?



QUERIES  
QUERIES

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 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?

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

**Eleventh Month 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Page | 10

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 resource?*

*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 was one response to the queries. A Friend noted that she had been to a meeting where someone from PA Power and Light spoke and said that members of their organization must give monetary and practical help. The Friend wondered what we can do to continue our efforts in environmental issues.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved after the addition of a discussion on conscientious objection under Outreach and Social Action and the addition of a request.

## **REPORTS**

### **Finance Committee**

Yuri Plowden reported. The special events income for the year has exceeded \$6000. This will help cover donations to organizations. The Harvest Dinner brought in about \$1600.

The solar panels are saving the Meeting about \$2600. The monthly bill is zero or better.

The area of concern is that only 62% of the money needed for the budget has been donated. Last year at this time, 80% had been donated.

During November and December potluck, the donation box will be available. The money will go to the Food Bank.

Connie Wheeler presented the finances for this year, with the income and expenses reported through the third quarter. She reiterated that the contributions are down. Building needs, on the other hand, are up.

For the fundraising dinners, she took out the expenses and sent the difference to the organizations being supported. This worked for supporting the causes, but the dinners were a lot of work. (One Friend noted that it was “joyful work.”)

Connie presented the budget for 2018. The expected income is reduced. She also moved Buildings and Grounds as a line item to under the list of committees. Music and the payroll have both been reduced because less was spent than budgeted this year.

Someone asked if we usually receive more money at the end of the calendar year. Connie replied that the Meeting does receive more then, but to count it must be postmarked by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Kerry Wiessmann mentioned that last year the Meeting had some larger, one-time contributions that helped the budget but will not happen again. We also cannot count on investment income.

Questions included one about paying Quaker organizations such as FCNL. Connie said those are paid in the fourth quarter if there are funds available. Another question was on the cost of grass cutting. Connie stated that line included a new lawn mower. The answer to another question was that new lights for the social room are listed under the Building and Grounds budget.

Another issue the Meeting faces is rental income is declining. We are at 51% of what was budgeted, with only 3 months to go. Part of the income decline may be due to not having someone to answer rental calls during the day. The Committee is considering whether to have someone available more hours.

Kerry Wiessmann added that there has been so much repair work this year that the Committee did not bother to put money into deferred maintenance, just to pull it back out again. They just paid for items directly from the Buildings and Grounds budget.

To help with the lack of donations, another appeal letter will be sent before the end of the year. Friends are encouraged to contribute what they are able.

*Meeting approved a minute of appreciation for Connie Wheeler, who has worked very hard on the budget and the finances of the Meeting. We appreciate all that she has done.*

### **Personnel Committee**

Darlene Clark reported. She met with the Meeting secretary, Betsy Gamble, to go over the job description and talk about ways the Meeting could improve their communication with her.

Members need to remember to provide her with updates and to be clear about any deadlines. The person who developed the website is no longer available, and Betsy and Yuri are working on how to update it. Yuri is also working on the Facebook page and working on how to do rentals in a more streamlined way. (This will be coordinated with Finance Committee.) The Recording Clerk will send items from Business Meeting to Betsy within a few days so she can put them in the Bulletin.

### **Park Forest Preschool**

The Clerk read an email from Claudia Wilson about the holiday boxes for Park Forest Preschool. The First Day School is collecting bath items and toys, but the school also needs canned goods.

There are 30 boxes that need to be filled by December 11<sup>th</sup>. There was some discussion on which canned goods should be contributed. That will be announced later. One Friend said she would bring a box where the canned goods could be placed.

## **Outreach and Social Action**

Polly Dunn reported for the Committee. She has also been trying to work on the website. Johanna Jackson suggested some website changes that would be very helpful. She will work with Yuri.

The Meeting's publicity materials have been depleted. Polly has been getting new ideas on how to do the handouts, as well as looking for places to put them around town.

Marjorie Nelson wanted the Meeting to be aware of an article in the October issue of Friends Journal on the selective service system. The concern is that it is very ready to gear up for war. Marjorie wondered if Religious Education was talking with our young Friends about this. Kerry Wiessmann responded that last year four Sundays were devoted to this subject in the high school class. The selective service process varies by state. In Pennsylvania, people are registered when they apply for a driver's license.

## **Friends School**

Ann Sidone reported. Friends are invited to join in the school's annual SPICES of Life celebration next Sunday, November 12, at 4:00 at the Atherton Hotel. Additional information and invitations will be available at rise of Meeting for Worship today.

We're gratified to be able to tell you that, for the third straight year, State College Friends School was voted best private or charter school in the area by State College Magazine.

Our enrollment stands at 96 in the K-8 program. Administration, board, teachers, and parents are working together to develop a configuration for the school that will be sustainable given this lower enrollment. The goal is to find a way forward that preserves the heart and soul of the school, causes as little disruption as possible, and allows the maximum number of students and teachers to stay at the school, all with a balanced budget. A letter explaining this process recently went out to parents, and so far the response has been one of support, with helpful comments and suggestions. We expect a decision on any changes to be made by the school's December 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

The school recently found success in hiring an assistant teacher, a part-time middle school math teacher, and a yoga instructor. Special thanks go out to Dorothy Habecker for filling the assistant teacher slot during the search; we wish her a happy second retirement from SCFS! There is still a need for an additional after-school staff person.

The historic Quakers from the Quaker Roots celebration did a wonderful repeat performance last week at Meeting for Worship at the school. They were well received by all. The children were enthralled and their message was perfect.

We had another well received Halloween parade to Foxdale with lots of smiles all around. Thankful Tuesday, always a special celebration, will be held on November 21<sup>st</sup> from 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter of appreciation was read from Christine Ayoub for the Harvest Dinner.

The Clerk has received several letters from inmates. Gary read one that was a reply to the form letter the Meeting had sent. Gary feels the leading to continue correspondence with this person. Another letter was received from an inmate at SCI Rockview. Marjorie Nelson visits that prison through the PA Prison Society and she will make contact with him.

A letter was received from John Calvi, who is a Quaker healing workshop leader from Putney, Vermont. The Clerk particularly wanted Friends to know about QUIT, the organization John started. It stands for Quaker Initiative to End Torture.

Meeting has been asked to endorse a minute of support for the UN Weapons Ban Treaty. This was passed on to Outreach and Social Action Committee for review.

## **REQUESTS TO MEETING**

Meeting agreed to have Margaret Fisher from the Working Group on Right Relationship with Animals give a short workshop on January 14, 2018. People will gather at 12:30 after refreshments.

Harry Scott of the BYM Camping Program will come talk to Friends on January 21<sup>st</sup>, also at 12:30.

Kat Alden is part of Sierra Club. They want to do a fundraising dinner for Puerto Rico on January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Meeting House. Students from the PSU Caribbean Association will speak. Meeting agreed to host the fundraiser and forgo the rental. Volunteers are needed to help with the dinner.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

An organ recital will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup> to benefit Interfaith Human Services. It will be at 3:00 at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Rise Up Singing will be on November 19<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Meeting House.

The Memorial Meeting for Tom Ryan will be on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Meetinghouse. Some help will be needed with refreshments.

Kerry Wiessman announced the LGBTQA Thanksgiving Dinner will be on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Meetinghouse. Two volunteers are needed.

Friends are needed for bell ringing for Interfaith Human Services on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sign up!

Kim Kilmore has been doing a lot of wonderful work on the Meeting library to make it digital. If you see her, please thank her.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The October minutes for BMFW were approved.

**Next Business Meeting for Worship: December 3, 2017.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Fosmire, Clerk  
Recording Clerk

Margy Frysinger,

**ATTENDANCE:**

Yuri Plowden

Connie Wheeler

Michael Grutzeck

Lynne Grutzeck

Polly Dunn

Kerry Wiessmann

Cathy Braasch

Darlene Clark

Amy Pritchett

Marjorie Nelson

Susan Knox

Ann Sidone

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