

**FRIENDLY  
CONNECTIONS**

**State College Friends Meeting**

**January  
2018  
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**

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► Jan.7 SCFM Meeting for Worship for Business, 9:00 am

► **“WHO CAN SAVE THE ROHINGYA?”** – Special Interfaith Coffee Hour with Guest Speaker Dr. Wakar Uddin (Director-General of Arakan Rohingya Union) & his wife, **Sarah Naeem Uddin: Saturday, January 20, 2018, 2:00 pm** at St. Paul's United Methodist Church Education Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor (directly across from McAllister Parking Deck) The U.S. Congress and the United Nations **agree** that the Rohingya of Burma/Myanmar are among the most persecuted people on Earth, and are being subject to genocidal violence. – **Hear the latest on the ongoing situation and what needs to be done** – *Event sponsored by Interfaith Initiative Centre County, Islamic Society of Central Pennsylvania, St. Paul's United Methodist Church. (If any question in case of snow, check Interfaith Initiative Centre County on Facebook. Snow date: Sunday, January 21, 2:00 pm, same location.) Admission Free, Refreshments Served.*

► Winter Camping. Save the date for family camping this winter - it's January 20-21! Come visit Camp Golden Pond for singing, hiking, baking, sledding, and cozy cabins. Thanks to money from Religious Ed, this program costs only \$20 per family. Adults interest in spending time with young people are also welcome to join! See Johanna for more info, at [jmjacks44@gmail.com](mailto:jmjacks44@gmail.com). Camp Golden Pond is 30 minutes south of State College, near Shaver's Creek.

► 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:

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

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

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

► For all the latest reports and upcoming events in BYM, their publication Interchange, Winter 2018, is available via a link at the bottom of the Interchange page: <<http://www.bym-rsf.org/publications/interchange/>> <http://www.bym-rsf.org/publications/interchange/>

Upcoming PYM events are listed on their calendar at:

<<http://www.pym.org/calendar/>> <http://www.pym.org/calendar/>

## Calendar

Jan.5-7 PYM Young Adult Friends Retreat, Swarthmore Friends Meeting

Jan.5-7 BYM Nuts and Bolts Committee of Young Friends Conference, Gunpowder Friends Meeting (Sparks, MD)

Jan.7 SCFM Meeting for Worship for Business, 9:00 am

Jan.13-14 BYM Junior Young Friends Conference, Adelphi Meeting, Hyattsville, Md.

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

<[http://www.bym-rsf.org/what\\_we\\_do/committees/animals/](http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/animals/)> [http://www.bym-rsf.org/what\\_we\\_do/committees/animals/](http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/animals/)

Jan.20-21 BYM Junior Young Friends Conference, Herndon Friends Meeting (Herndon, VA)

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

Jan.26-28 BYM Women's Retreat, Pearlston Retreat & Conference Center, Reisterstown, Md.

Feb.3 PYM Resource Friends in Ministry& Care, 9:30 am-2:30 pm, Friends Center, Philadelphia, George Schaefer, <<mailto:gschaefer@pym.org>> [gschaefer@pym.org](mailto:gschaefer@pym.org) or [215-241-7068](tel:215-241-7068).

## **Thinking About Race-** (January 2018) *Tears we Cannot Stop*

Professor and author Michael Eric Dyson, in *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* (2017), in preaching mode, addresses the reader directly as “Beloved.” Excerpts from Chapter 5 “Our Own Worst Enemy.”

“Beloved, why is it that every time black folk talk about how poorly the cops treat us you say that we should focus instead on how we slaughter each other in the streets every day? ... You do not bring this up because you’re genuinely concerned. You want to win points in debates. You want to avoid any responsibility for how traumatized our communities are. You want to hide from the horror of cops mowing us down like we’re animals. (p. 143)

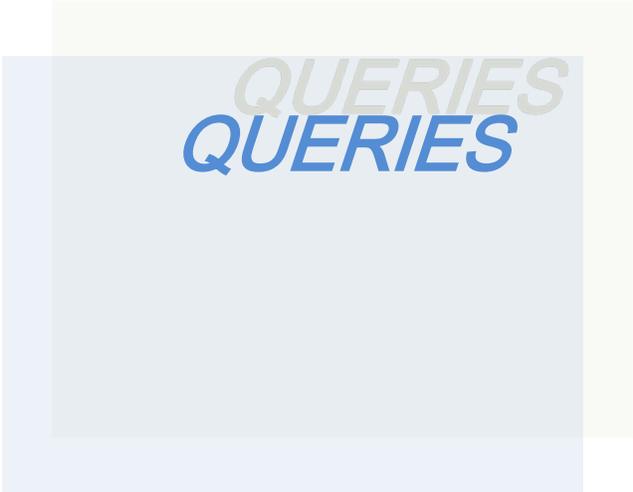
“Beloved, what you see happening among us is not best understood as black-on-black crime. Rather it is neighbor-to-neighbor crime. ... You are right, however, about those proportions. Ninety-three percent of black folk who are killed are killed by other black folk. But 84 percent of white folks who are killed are killed by other with folk. ... Where’s the white-on-white crime rhetoric? Where are the rants against white folk ruining white culture with their murderous ways?

“White folk commit the bulk of the crimes in our nation. And, beloved, it might surprise you that white folk commit the most violent crimes too. ... White folk consistently lead all other groups in aggravated assault, larceny, illegal weapons possession, arson, and vandalism. [Other statistics follow.] The white-on-white mayhem is profound, yet no one speaks of it in racial terms.” (pp. 148-149)

## **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?



## **QUERIES**

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?

## **Philadelphia Yearly Meeting**

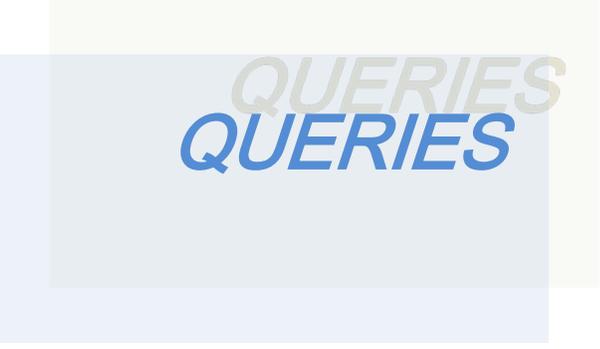
### *Meeting for Worship*

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?



QUERIES  
QUERIES

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?

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

**Twelfth Month 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**

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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?*

Friends had several responses. One said that simplicity is a difficult word to define. As a parent, she struggled with buying for 7 people in her family. She remembered Christine Ayoub saying that it's more about not being duplicitous, and meaning what you say. How do you have simplicity in a complex world? This Friend said she still struggles with it.

Another Friend said she likes where the queries talk about focus. Does your life have a main goal or focus? It should come from the Spirit, and having focus would help simplify things. Another Friend said she thought it was interesting the way it paired integrity with simplicity. Integrity can make things more complicated, when it means addressing things and not sweeping them under the rug. This Friend said she, too, has trouble with simplicity, and daily life and intention and goals. Doing what you need to do may be integrity but it also may not make things simple.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

Two reports were added: Buildings and Grounds, and Friends School.

## **REPORTS**

### **Finance Committee**

Yuri Plowden reported. The Committee was bringing forth the same budget as last month with a few corrections. Advancement and Outreach and Peace and Social Action budget lines were zeroed out and all the money budgeted went into Outreach. The Buildings and Grounds line item is \$5000 for things that need to be done in the next year. BYM has increased from \$4000 to \$5000

and USQM has been decreased by \$1000. Money for members in need is still included.

Meeting expressed gratitude to the Finance Committee for all the work they have done.

*Meeting approved the 2018 Budget.*

Yuri informed Meeting that Finance Committee did approve contributions to AFSC, FCNL, and FGC for 2017.

### **Religious Education**

Becky Misangyi reported. She first reminded Meeting that responsibility for arranging childcare was her responsibility, but not as part of RE. The pay rate for childcare of \$10/hour was set 15 to 20 years ago, and she would like it increased to \$15/hour.

*Meeting approved increasing childcare pay to \$15/hour, with the understanding that Finance Committee will need to adjust the just approved budget.*

For her RE report, Becky said that the fundraiser for Park Forest was ending today, but items would not be delivered for a week so there was more time if Friends still wanted to contribute.

Johanna Jackson has agreed to organize the Black Moshannon weekend. They are trying for the weekend of January 21<sup>st</sup>. Next week, with Meeting at Foxdale, the First Day School will do caroling and then the pageant at the rise of Meeting. The candlelight service is the next week, and Yuri Plowden is organizing it. There was some confusion which committee has responsibility for organizing the candlelight service. Several Friends stated it is under the care of Worship and Ministry. When RE has concerns about which things are under RE, they are welcome to bring those concerns to Worship and Ministry.

Becky wanted the Meeting to know that the First Day School teachers are amazing this year. Good conversations have been happening in the classes.

### **Outreach and Social Action**

Some members of the Committee met to look over materials to have at the meeting house. They need someone who is adept at desktop publishing – Laurie Jeffreys volunteered to help.

Dorothy Habecker sent the following email about Out of the Cold:

*The Out of the Cold program began on October 23 at the Unity Church of Jesus Christ for 2 weeks. The Assembly of God has also hosted guests*

*for 2 weeks. The State College Presbyterian Church is now hosting the program. So far there have been 39 guests with an average of 14 per night. The numbers this season are more than double what they were last year at this time.*

*From Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, University Baptist and Brethren will be hosting the guests at their church for 2 weeks in collaboration with us/Friends. Six people from Friends Meeting have been through the orientation so they can participate as volunteers in the program, and 3 more will be trained this afternoon. There are still volunteer needs that have not been filled by UBBC and Friends for our 2 weeks. Fortunately, last week the Mennonites contacted us and are volunteering to help fill our volunteer needs. The Mennonites are scheduled to host Out of the Cold in the spring, and UBBC and Friends will then have the opportunity to help them fill their volunteer needs.*

*Out of the Cold is putting together gift bags for our guests, and they are asking for donations of money to pay for sleeping mats that have already been purchased and also for gift cards for places like Dunkin Donuts and McDonalds. Is there the possibility that a donation box for Out of the Cold could be put in the social room for donations? Also, if there are going to be fund raising dinners this winter for local charitable organizations, I would like Out of the Cold to be considered as one of the organizations to be supported.*

*Please contact me with questions or to make a charitable donation to Out of the Cold.*

Finance Committee was asked to consider including Out of the Cold as one of the designated charities. The donation box could also be put out on Sundays that are not already designated for a charity.

Gary Fosmire read a letter from Ryan Ho, an inmate at SCI Rockview. Marjorie Nelson visited Ryan in her role as a member of the Prison Society. Gary will let Marjorie know about the date of Ryan's upcoming court appearance.

## **Memorial Committee**

Laurie Jeffreys read the following memorial minute for Tom Ryan:

*Tom Ryan was a generous soul who lived with grace, humor, and creativity. A mathematician, statistician, computer programmer, entrepreneur, community volunteer, active Quaker, and devoted son, father, and husband, Tom left a rich legacy.*

*Born Thomas Arthur Ryan, Jr., on June 12, 1940, in Ithaca, New York, to Thomas Arthur Ryan Sr. and Mary Shaw Ryan, Tom was raised in an academic, nonreligious household with his younger sister Adelaide "Susie" Ryan.*

*Tom attended Wesleyan University where, in addition to his Quantitative Studies major, he took Bible courses, participated in a Methodist youth fellowship group, and joined the Methodists. He considered taking a year at the Yale Divinity School, which prompted the only letter his atheist father ever sent him – an offer to pay for a year of studies in philosophy. Tom got the message and headed home to begin graduate study in mathematics at Cornell.*

*After completing his PhD and teaching at Columbia, Tom came to Penn State in 1969, where he remained on the faculty for 30 years. While in graduate school, Tom married a fellow student, Barbara Falkenbach Ryan; that marriage ended in divorce after 20 years.*

*While still married, and together with then Penn State colleague Brian Joiner, Tom and Barbara developed Minitab, an easy-to-use statistical software program designed to run on a wide variety of computer platforms. Tom served as lead programmer and, once the company was incorporated, as first President of Minitab Inc. from 1983 to 1988. Minitab is now used in more than 4000 colleges and universities around the world and in 90% of Fortune 100 companies. In recognition of his pioneering efforts in statistical computing, Tom was named Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1981.*

*While his participation in the 1960s peace movement in Ithaca made Tom interested in Friends, he assumed that the Society didn't want newcomers. In the early 80s, while vacationing with his parents at Mohonk Mountain House, he came across an issue of Friends Journal that made clear newcomers were welcome. He attributed his later passion for Friends outreach to how long it took him to attend his first*

*meeting. Upon attending State College Friends Meeting (SCFM), Tom immersed himself in Quaker opportunities – the PYM Quaker Studies program, a Spiritual Gifts retreat, Pendle Hill courses, and a weekly Bible Study and two Meetings for Worship.*

*On his first date with his second wife, Lauri Perman, he let her know that he was attending Friends Meeting, in case that proved a barrier for her. Her response was, “May I go with you sometime?” Their shared commitment to Friends became the foundation of their life together. Ten days after their first date, Tom and Lauri decided to marry. Six months later, on April 26, 1986, they married under the care of the Meeting; they joined the Meeting shortly before Nathaniel Arthur “Nate” Ryan was born on February 4, 1987. Tom was thrilled to become a father at age 47.*

*After leaving Minitab in 1988, Tom’s leadership skills were sought in the Quaker world.*

*He clerked all three Quaker institutions in State College – the Friends Meeting, the Friends School Board, and the Foxdale Village Board. He brought his computer skills to the Quaker world, teaching himself html to build and maintain the first websites for SCFM and Baltimore Yearly Meeting. For several years, he prepared the weekly bulletin, served as an Assistant First Day School teacher, and hosted occasional Silent Saturday retreats. Tom also served on many SCFM and BYM Quaker committees, with a special interest in outreach and religious education. Tom was a committed father, sharing responsibility equally from Nate’s earliest years. A photo of the Foxdale Village ground-breaking ceremony shows Tom, a member of the founding Board of Trustees, holding an*

*infant Nate. In 1999, Tom took early retirement from the university, assumed primary care for Nate, visited his mother daily for the nine years she lived in skilled nursing, and cooked for his family.*

*As a community volunteer, Tom found opportunities to nurture children – for three years tutoring and teaching math at Centre Learning Community (CLC) charter school, and teaching woodworking to Cub Scouts and in CLC's after-school program.*

*A life-threatening episode of pneumonia resulting in a collapsed lung in 1988 left Tom with an undiagnosed-at-the-time hypoxic brain injury that gave him fatigue and executive-function difficulties as he aged. He also developed diabetes, heart problems, neuropathy, and, in 2005, was diagnosed with vascular dementia. Despite his health problems, he remained active and involved, including as a Pendle Hill student from 2007 to 2009 – a long deferred dream that he realized while Lauri served as Executive Director.*

*In retirement, Tom completed multiple woodworking courses. He was drawn to hand tools and using them to make dove tails. In a Pendle Hill Book Arts course, he made a small book entitled *Reflections on Dove Tails* in which he describes the meditative process of making dove tails and likens them to his relationship with God.*

*In 2009, knowing that he would need more assistance in the future, he moved to Foxdale. Tom attended Quaker meeting weekly and exercised*

*three times a week. In memory care, he continued to read the newspaper and magazines, watch instructional woodworking DVDs, and enjoy visits with friends and family. In 2015, Lauri and Nate took Tom on vacation to his beloved Mohonk to celebrate his 75th birthday.*

*Tom's sustaining grace was humor. Even at the end of his life, he would laugh heartily at others' witticisms and sometimes contribute one of his own. Last spring when a nurse said to him, "Your son is handsome," Tom replied, "Of course – he takes after me."*

*Tom and Lauri had a wonderful last summer, eating a meal together outside every day. Tom continued to love food; his passion this summer was fresh berries. He ate a prodigious quantity of raspberries and strawberries, underscoring for Lauri the sweetness of a life well-lived. Tom died October 17, 2017, at Foxdale Village in State College, suddenly, after developing pneumonia. Lauri was holding his hand when he died. He is survived by Lauri, Nate, Susie, and extended family members.*

### ***Meeting approved the Memorial Minute for Tom Ryan.***

Laurie Jeffreys then gave details about the memorial service and took names of volunteers to help.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

Bernie Hoffnar reported. The Buildings and Grounds Committee is developing a list of who to call and what to do in various circumstances. For example, they will have instructions on how to respond in an emergency. They are also developing a long term and short term projects list.

One Friend asked why the Meeting only has one handicap sign when there are two spaces. Bernie said he would add that to the list. If Friends have other suggestions, please email Bernie.

## **Friends School**

Dan Hendey reported. The school has had a nice month. The Spices Gala raised over \$17,000. The school thanks Lori and Jackie for all the work they did.

Thankful Tuesday was heartwarming. The children also did holiday caroling at Foxdale, using a combination of the Peace Choir and the Foxdale Choir. They sang to a packed house. There is a Holiday Sing at the school on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and all are invited.

The school has a committee working on ways forward. A letter was sent to parents with ideas, and a few parents responded positively. In general, there was not a lot of response.

Four historical Quakers visited the school recently. The students enjoyed learning about them.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from September were approved. The minutes from November needed one correction under Personnel Committee and were approved with that correction.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Margaret Fisher confirmed her visit on January 14<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting.

Harry Scott confirmed for January 21<sup>st</sup>. However, that may conflict with the Black Moshannon weekend. Gary will try to change the date with Harry if needed.

**Next Business Meeting for Worship: January 7, 2018.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Fosmire, Clerk

Margy Frysinger, Recording Clerk

**ATTENDANCE:**

Yuri Plowden

Bernie Hoffnar

Ingrid Hoffnar

Martin Melville

Polly Dunn

Dan Hendey

Michael Grutzeck

Lynne Grutzeck

Becky Misangyi

Elizabeth Pennock

Ann Sidone

Laurie Jeffreys

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**RETURN REQUESTED**