

**FRIENDLY  
CONNECTIONS**

**State College Friends Meeting**

**April 2018  
Newsletter**



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

## Announcements

► **Right Sharing of World Resources Potluck:** The Potluck on April 8th will be a fundraiser for Right Sharing of World Resources. Please bring a simple meal item, such as beans and rice (spices are ok!). We hope Friends will put then donate to Right Sharing in the box that will be present.

► **Meeting for Worship for Business** will be on April 8. On April 22, we will hold meeting for worship at Friends School 11:15 am.

► Sign up to assist in First Day School:

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

► Sign up for refreshment and potluck through May:

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

► **Annual Spring Clean-up!** The building and grounds committee invites you to join us on Sat., Apr. 28 for the meeting's annual spring clean-up. We will gather from 9 am and work until 2 pm. You don't have to stay the whole time. Come when you can. Outside we will be working on gardening, raking, window cleaning and general clean-up. Inside we will be working on cleaning projects like cleaning the kitchen, washing windows, dusting light fixtures.

This is a way to make a concrete contribution to the beauty and order of our building and grounds; and have some fun.

Questions? call Bernie Hofnar; 814-206-7999 and leave a message

Rain date: Sunday, April 29th. 1-5 pm

▶ Rise Up Singing continues every 3rd Sunday, 4-6 pm. Bring your voice, your friends, your instruments and join the group! Upcoming session will be April 15.

▶ Upcoming First Day School events

· 4/8 Marjorie Nelson coming to speak to the middlings. Abbe Strauss also leading an activity.

· 4/15 Regular FDS for all classes. Isabella Teti will speak with the middlings about FCNL

· 4/22 Meeting and FDS at Friends School

· 4/29 Middle and High School at Foxdale

· 5/6 Planting flowers at Meeting. Dorothy Habecker will be leading planting "lessons" for all groups during FDS time.

· 5/13 Mother's Day celebration. FDS, led by Vilmos and Horst, will make a crepe breakfast honoring the mothers (but which will be enjoyed by all). The breakfast will be served at the rise of meeting.

· 5/20 Middle and High School at Foxdale

· 5/27 No FDS

· 6/3 Last day of FDS and Ice Cream Social

▶ Standing at the Gates for Justice every Monday at 4 pm at the Penn State gates at Allen St.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Calendar

### **Apr.8 SCFM Meeting for Worship for Business, 9 am**

April 8-12 Pendle Hill program:

<<https://pendlehill.org/events/matthew-mark-luke-us-gospel-community/#.Wpgah3xrwdV>> Matthew, Mark, Luke and Us: Gospel and Community

### **Apr.15 SCFM Bench/Truck/Table sale**

### **Apr.15 SCFM Rise Up Singing, 4-6 pm**

Apr.15-19 Pendle Hill program: Marcelle Martin offers

<<https://pendlehill.org/events/nurturing-faithfulness/#.Wpgyp3xrwdU>> Nurturing Faithfulness

### **Apr.19 SCFM CC Women's Resource Center fundraising dinner**

### **Apr.22 SCFM Meeting for Worship at Friends School, 11:15 am**

Apr.26 Park Forest Preschool 50th Anniversary, Park Forest Village United Methodist Church, 10:30 am

Apr.27-20 Shiloh Quaker Camp Spring Family Camp

May 4-6 Middle School and Young Friends at Camp Swatara. Contact: Melinda Wenner Bradley, 215-241-7171,

<<mailto:mwennerbradley@pym.org>> [mwennerbradley@pym.org](mailto:mwennerbradley@pym.org)

May 12 & 19 Creative Nonviolent Conflict Resolution, University Baptist and Brethren Church.

### **May 17 SCFM Friends School mac'n'cheese fundraising dinner**

May 18-20 Catoctin Quaker Camp Spring Family Camp

June 1-3 Opequon Quaker Camp Spring Family Camp

July 1-7 Friends General Conference, "The Power of Truth" Toledo

July 30-Aug. 5 BYM Annual Session, Hood College, Frederick, Md.

## **SPEAK YOUR PEACE!**

### **Creative Nonviolent Conflict Resolution**

**A 12 hour Experiential and Interactive Workshop  
to learn the art and language of a peacemaker**

**Space still available: May 12 and 19**

**(9 AM to 4 PM)**

**LOCATION: University Baptist and Brethren Church**

**411 S. Burrowes Street, State College, PA**

**FEE:\* \$20 for college students                      \$60 for other community members**

**(\* includes 2 lunches, refreshments, hand-outs and certificate.)**

**Extended deadline May 5<sup>th</sup>**

**To register: Contact Marie Hamilton at 814-238-8745 or**

**gmfhamilton@gmail.com OR use**

**link: <https://speakpeacesc.weebly.com/>**



## Thinking About Race – April 2018 – “Get Out”

“ ‘Get Out’ made these [Academy award] voters uncomfortable by showing that black people can be silenced, whether ignored, stereotyped or even, as happens in the movie, kidnapped. So those voters’ response was to attempt to silence the movie, which paradoxically proves one of its main points.

“Such willful ignorance isn’t unique to the Oscars, however. This kind of attitude is also partly to blame for the lack of progress for African-Americans in rates of homeownership, incarceration and employment over the past 50 years. The Economic Policy Institute recently released a study showing that the black homeownership rate stayed about the same from 1968 to 2015. But during that time, the black incarceration rate nearly tripled, and it’s now more than six times the white incarceration rate. And the unemployment rate among blacks is worse than in 1968, and now twice the rate of white unemployment.

....

“Many white Americans desperately want the “post-racial” idea to be real; they want to think the country has made progress. But given statistics that show discrimination is still hindering black economic progress, and the desire to keep the black condition invisible, it’s clear that we have to work harder on producing the improvement in black life too many Americans think already exists.”

From a March 8, 2018, op-ed in **The New York Times**, “Why Didn’t ‘Get Out’ Win Best Picture?” by Kashana Cauley, a television and freelance writer and a contributing opinion writer.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/08/opinion/get-out-oscars.html>

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR)  
[david.etheridge@verizon.net](mailto:david.etheridge@verizon.net).

## **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?



## **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

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?



*QUERIES*  
*QUERIES*

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

**Third Month 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

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?*

One Friend shared a recent event at Foxdale, where a member of the Meeting talked about Quaker decision-making. She said he did an excellent job, and she hopes he knows how much it meant. Another Friend said we have tried several times to have people contribute their thoughts and journeys to the newsletter or on Facebook, but it has been difficult to find people willing to do so. Another Friend described a mentoring program at a meeting she attended in Philadelphia. She loved the idea, and felt she could be one now for someone, but at the same time she could probably still use one.

One Friend said he wanted to cry at the question about teaching our children. He sees it in his grandchildren who grew up in the Meeting. They are no longer active as Quakers but they live with the principles of Quakers. He thanks the Meeting for that.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved with no changes.

## **REPORTS TO THE MEETING**

### **Buildings and Grounds Committee**

Bernie Hoffnar reported. He explained several items:

- The Committee has not yet decided on a clean-up day.
- The Committee has been reviewing several items:

1. The school rental contract
2. A request received for a tree planting from parents to honor the teachers from the Friends School preschool. The Committee asks Friends to convey ideas and thoughts to the Committee.  
Two comments from Friends: The Coop Playschool did this years ago, so there is a precedent; please do it while the teachers are still here.
3. The Committee is moving ahead on gutters and the outside work. Water was in the basement after a recent heavy rain. They believe the gutters are not working as they should.  
Yuri Plowden said the Finance Committee has discussed this and will work to free up enough money for Buildings and Grounds to get the work done. After a question wondering if we are sure it's the gutters, Friends were told the gutters are the first step. We will not know if there are more problems until we get the gutters done.
4. The shed needs to be replaced. The Committee is getting estimates.
5. The sealing and handicapped markings for the parking lots are being figured out.  
One Friend said she hoped the parking lines will be the same on both sides, with wider spaces for vehicles.
6. They are proceeding on the lights in the social room. They are being replaced with LED lights.
7. The closet in the social room has the solar panel controls. It gets too hot, and needs ventilation. The Committee is working on that.

8. The electrician reviewed the building and said it is not as bad as originally thought.
9. One toilet was not working. A “handy man” has been identified (Ken Smeltzer) who fixed it with help from Gary Fosmire. The toilet had to be replaced.
10. Work has been done to clean up the Friendly Woods. It is significantly better, thanks to Martin Melville.

In the discussion that followed, someone questioned what type of tree did the parents wish to plant? Martin Melville will talk with them. The new shed placement is still in discussion, as is the fate of the old shed. There is a tree that will eventually fall on the old shed, and that will be addressed.

### **Finance Committee**

Yuri Plowden reported. The fundraising dinner for Out of the Cold grossed \$2,019. After expenses, about \$1900 will be sent to the organization.

To have money for the work Buildings and Grounds described, Finance Committee recommends removing \$30,000 from Friends Fiduciary. Our holdings there are currently \$78,000. The money would come from two undesignated funds: the Myers and the Norma White funds.

The current deferred maintenance fund has about \$15,000 in it. About \$500 a month is going into it. Connie Wheeler, treasurer, noted that we are barely bringing in enough to cover expenses. The Committee talked about doing a capital campaign, but you need to have some larger donors to make it successful. The Meeting does not have large donors.

It was noted that we can ask PYM for money for the building. But that does

not feel right when we have some money we can use. Others said we need to do the work on the building so we should spend the money. We can ask PYM for money later if we face an emergency.

*Meeting approved taking \$30,000 from the Myers and Norma White Funds at Friends Fiduciary.*

Yuri continued with the Finance Committee report. We are pleased to have been approached by Childspace to rent the building. It will be year-round, which will result in more rental money than we have been getting.

A question was raised about why the Meeting has decreased money to USQM. It was noted that last year's check to USQM was not cashed for a long time. It may be from a lack of information, but Meeting had concluded that they did not need the previous amount since there was no longer a paid employee. This will be discussed at the next Quarterly Meeting.

### **Out of the Cold**

An email was read from Dorothy Habecker:

A joint fundraising dinner is being held on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the Penn Stater (215 Innovation Blvd. State College) for two local organization – Out of the Cold and Hearts for the Homeless. Friends Meeting knows about Out of the Cold. Hearts for the Homeless is a local daytime shelter for people who are homeless. Out of the Cold can only provide shelter from 9:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. Hearts for the Homeless provides warmth and shelter during the day as well as toiletries, lunches, access to showers, assistance in finding permanent housing, applying for medical insurance and food stamps and other services.

A presentation about OOTC and H4H at the March 27<sup>th</sup> dinner will give

more information about the organizations and also about the needs of some of our most vulnerable community members. The dinner is free. Donations will be accepted at the dinner. There are three ways that Friends can participate in this fundraiser. 1. Make an RSVP, attend the dinner and make a donation there. 2. Serve as a table sponsor: a table sponsor contributes \$350 prior to the dinner to cover the costs of the food at one table. By guaranteeing dinner expenses prior to the event, all monies raised go directly to supporting our homeless friends. 3. Serve as a table host: each table seats 10 people. As a table host, your goal is to fill the table with guests. All RSVPs must be made by March 19<sup>th</sup>. If you choose to do any of these things, please contact Dorothy Habecker. She will be out of town from March 5<sup>th</sup> to March 19<sup>th</sup> but you can contact her through email or phone. She will pass on any RSVPs from Friends. If we have 10 people from Meeting who are committed to going, we can host a table.

Our Friends Meeting fundraising dinner for OOTC on Feb. 22 was a success. Over 120 people attended the Build Your Own Burrito dinner and around \$1900 will be donated to OOTC. The attenders and the volunteers seemed to enjoy themselves and the food, especially Michael Grutzeck's guacamole!

### **Nominating Committee**

Lynne Grutzeck reported. The Committee is requesting to include long-term attenders who are not members on all committees. This led to a discussion on seasoning and the importance of membership. There was not unity on a decision; the discussion was deferred to the next Business meeting.

### **Friends School**

Dan Hendey reported that it's been a busy month. Enrollment for next year has begun, and they have held some open houses. In practical matters, they

wanted to thank the Meeting for the rent rebate and they are negotiating with Foxdale about selling them a strip of land that the school does not need. The Board needs Quaker board members to replace ones that are leaving.

The events at a school in Florida have triggered a reaction by parents and teachers at the school. They have been addressing this in the school community and would like to include the Meeting community. On Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, middle school students who choose to are joining the national walkout about guns and school violence. Parents of younger children can also decide whether to have them participate. The walkout will be for 17 minutes to mark the number of victims. The middle school students also made affirmations to send to the school in Florida – enough for all the students there. A letter has been sent to Representatives, and to the editor at the Centre Daily Times.

Quakers in the Classroom had their annual visit. Dan said it adds to the spirit of the school and is appreciated by the students.

### **Worship and Ministry**

Martin Melville reported that the Committee is setting up two Clearness Committees for membership requests. He presented a draft of the Spiritual State of the Meeting report for BYM and asked Friends to email him with ideas/suggestions.

Lynne Grutzeck made announcements for the Committee: MFW will be at Foxdale next week, the April 8<sup>th</sup> potluck will be the Right Sharing for World Resources simple meal with donations to Right Sharing, and Friends School will host MFW on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. She also noted that people had not been comfortable with a holding in the light circle after MFW, so it will no longer occur unless someone requests it.

If anyone has a copy of the Listening Group questions, please share them with Lynne.

### **Outreach and Social Action**

Johanna Jackson is working on a project to make the work of the Meeting committees more visible. The website shows the duties and responsibilities of the committees but a more enticing description could be posted at the meetinghouse. She asked what people thought of the idea.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes were approved with one correction under Finance Committee.

**Next Business Meeting for Worship: April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kerry Wiessmann announced the next fundraising dinner will be Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> for Third Way Collective.

Kerry also announced the Centre LGBTQA Support Network Gayla will be

on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at Tussey Mountain Ski Resort. More information is on their Facebook page; tickets are \$35. The LGBTQA high school prom is Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Atherton Hotel. More information will be available later.

Lynne Grutzeck announced that an article on Interfaith Human Services is currently in Town and Gown magazine. Gary Fosmire noted that Friends General Conference, "The Power of Truth," is July 1 to 7 in Toledo, Ohio. Gary has copies if anyone wants them. Sue Knox reminded Friends about Marie Hamilton's workshops in April and May. Flyers are available.

The meeting concluded with a brief time of worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Fosmire  
Clerk

Margy Frysinger  
Recording Clerk

**ATTENDANCE:**

Connie Wheeler

Yuri Plowden

Kerry Wiessmann

Susan Knox

Lynne Grutzeck

Becky Misangyi

Bernie Hoffnar

Laurie Jeffreys

Renee Crauder

Ann Sidone

Polly Dunn

Martin Melville

Cathy Braasch

Michael Grutzeck

Dan Hendey

Marjorie Nelson

**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**