



Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter

Meeting for Worship
10:00 am Sunday

Volume 49 No. 10
Summer 2003

From Worship and Ministry

Thoughts in Meeting for Worship

We come to this place by many different paths,
bearing our burdens,
bringing our gifts.

Here, where our paths intersect,
where our journeys of the Spirit come together.

We become as spokes of a great wheel —
centered and united by the hub —
by the Spirit,

which lightens our burdens,
and uses our gifts
in the service of Love.

Camilla H. Flintermann

Facing Bench for June

Marietta Donovan and Deedy Roberts

Hospitality for Summer

Friendship Committee relies on volunteers to provide refreshments from June through August. Please sign up to prepare refreshments one First Day during the summer months. The sign up poster is in the hallway. (Please put your phone number after your name.) No experience is necessary. It is a great way for attenders to get to know folks a little better — ask someone to sign up with you.

There are people on the Friendship committee who are glad to help. Their phone numbers are on the poster or just ask someone at Meeting. Your expenses for buying the cookies, etc., are reimbursed by the Meeting.

Thanks, The Friendship Committee.

Upcoming Events

June 1 — Peace & Social Concerns Gathering.

2 PM at Taylor's Farm, Cinnaminson. All those interested in peace and social issues are invited to see what other Meetings in the Quarter are doing. The gathering will be outside (on the porch in case of rain). Refreshments will be provided by the Haddonfield Quarter Peace & Social Concerns Committee. Call Priscilla Adams for more information or directions.

June 4 — Haddonfield Friends School Spring Fling. 6:30 PM. Rain date June 5.

June 7 — Strawberry Festivals. Mickleton MM holds its annual Strawberry Festival from 3 to 7 PM. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children.

If you can't make it to Mickleton, Rancocas MM is having *their* annual Strawberry Festival from 5 to 8 PM. (You might even be able to attend both!)

June 7 — Peace Vigil. Medford Meeting is continuing to hold Meeting for Worship followed by a silent vigil the first Saturday of each month. Worship is at 9:30 AM and the vigil is from 10 to 11 AM.

June 13–14 — Young Friends Alumni Reunion.

For Young Adult Friend "graduates" of PYM's Young Friends group. Sponsored by Friends Institute. Burlington Meetinghouse. \$20. For more information, e-mail friendsinstitute@pym.org.

June 21 — Rancocas Meeting Family Day. 2–6 PM. Events for children, crafts, games, horse and wagon rides, cookout and burial of time capsule. Part of Rancocas Meeting's 300th anniversary celebration.

June 22 — Quarterly Meeting at Mt. Laurel.

See article below.

June 26–29 — Seeking a Praxis of Peace: The Sacred and the Secular. Friends Association for Higher Education annual conference at Pendle Hill and Swarthmore College. For more information, log on to www.pendlehill.org/fahe.htm.

June 28–July 5 — Friends General Conference 2003. Gathering of Friends at the University of Pittsburgh campus at Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

July 12 — Picnic at the Taylor Farm. The PYM Working Group on Conscience, Militarism and War Tax Concerns invites all to an afternoon by the river, followed by a potluck supper and program. Contact Suzanne Day at 215-241-7240 or suzanned@pym.org for more information.

Looking ahead:

September 27–28 — Haddonfield Meeting overnight retreat at Mt. Misery. Watch for details throughout the summer.

October 10–13 — FGC Young Quakes Conference.

October 17–19 — Tri-Quarter Retreat at Camp Ockanickon

May Monthly Meeting for Business — May 9, 2003

The Meeting opened with a period of silence; the Clerk read from the 12th Query in *Faith & Practice*, 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?

Ceil McFadden, clerk of Nominations committee, reported that Karin Sannwald has resigned as Treasurer, but will stay on the Finance Committee; Friends accepted her resignation, and expressed thanks for her service. Nominations Committee recommends Stuart and June Hodges serve as co-treasurers; the Meeting approved.

Ceil also reported that Diane Werner has resigned from the Children's Inclusion Committee, and Harold Katz from the Friendship Committee. Friends approved the recommended nominations for committees (see list included with this newsletter).

It was decided that the terms of Meeting committees, officers and representatives be the same as the fiscal year — from July 1 to June 30. Nominating Committee will continue to present their recommendations at April's Business Meeting, with approval at the May Meeting. Each committee will decide on its transition period.

Connie Brookes presented a brief interim report from the Finance Committee: a budget will be presented at the June Meeting.

The Clerk presented the Meeting's report to Quarterly Meeting; the Meeting approved.

George Harrison reported on Interim Meeting. The PYM Annual Appeal is not going well. This could lead to further budget cuts next year. Friends are urged to contribute what they can.

Flora McKinney reported on the recent Interfaith Summit in Chicago which Thomas Jeavons attended. We are encouraged to participate in local groups to work for peace. Marietta Donovan was asked to represent the Meeting at the Haddonfield Ministerium, which has been organizing ecumenical worship services and peace vigils.

The meeting ended with a brief period of silence.

The schedule for Monthly Meeting for Business for the summer: June 8 — 10:45 (at rise of Meeting); no Monthly Meeting in July; August 10 — 10:45 (at rise of Meeting).

June Quarterly Meeting

The spring's Quarterly Meeting will take place on First Day, June 22nd at Mt. Laurel Meeting. This session will be a little different than a typical Quarterly Meeting. Its focus will be on community rather than business.

Meeting for Worship will begin at 10:30 AM, followed by a picnic at 12:00 noon. Attenders are asked to pack a lunch. Ice cream will be provided by the host.

Participants will have the opportunity to hike through a nearby park and climb Mount Laurel. Intergenerational games and intra-meeting introductions are also planned.

News From HFS

On Friday, May 2nd, the Annual 3rd Grade Peace Fair was held at Haddonfield Friends School. About 120 third-grade students from Moorestown, Mullica Hill, Westfield, Rancocas, and Orchard Friends Schools joined with our own third-graders in the Meetinghouse to hear Quiet Riot, an accomplished group that demonstrated peaceful stories and practices.

We then broke up into 10 groups and assembled in the main school building for cooperative games, snacks, and an art activity used to extend the principles of peacemaking. Each group was lead by a teacher and assistant from a participating Quaker School. We concluded our time together with a wonderful time of sharing. The messages were sincere, heart-felt and, hopefully, long-lasting. Many thanks to the 3rd grade parents who devoted the day to act as hosts and hostesses. Without their help we would not have been able to carry out our plan. Finally, we would like to thank all the teachers who made special plans to take their students on a field trip so we could use their classroom space to accomplish the goals of the day. We look forward to seeing the seeds of peace grow.

*Tr. Shelley and Tr. Brian
Third Grade Teachers*

A Report from the HFS Head Search Committee

The search process for a Head for Haddonfield Friends School is now in full swing. Advertisements have been widely circulated in the appropriate independent school publications, and Search Committee members have begun telephone inquiries to locate potential candidates currently working in Friends and other independent schools. A number of strong applications have already come in.

Our search consultant, Barbara Gilvar of Gilvar and Associates in Boston, will return to Haddonfield on Monday, June 2. She will meet with the Advisory Committees in the afternoon, and have an extended

meeting with the Search Committee in the evening. The purpose of this visit will be to prepare us all for the crucial interviewing process that will take place during the month of June.

For the Committee, Dan Tompkins

Gourmet Dinner Fundraising Results

The Small Circle of Friends — the cooks and servers, musicians and flower arrangers, cheerleaders and hangers-on — who brought you the April 12 gourmet fund-raising dinner, have a few things to report. The theme of the dinner was to honor Winnie Beer, and we are told that everyone enjoyed the food, the music, the decorations, the company and the presentations. It was, by all accounts, a great evening and the consensus is that Winnie would have been pleased. The purpose of the dinner was to help the Middle School in the funding of outdoor activities and social events. Our goal was \$5,000, and we nearly reached it with a net total of \$4,500. We are very grateful for the payments and contributions, small and large, that brought us so close. We hope that this event will be the first of an annual fund-raiser to help the school, and we think it would be a sign of true success if we actually met our goal the first time out — to set a standard for the next dinner. If friends are able, we will gladly accept additional contributions to reach our goal. Checks should be payable to HMM, noted for the HFS Fund Raiser, and given to Treasurer June Hodges.

Peace Events

The Greater Camden Unity Coalition continues to hold a vigil each Saturday at 12 noon in front of the Cherry Hill Mall. For more information about peace events in the Philadelphia area, log on to www.philapeace.org, where you can find out about other events and join in online discussions about peace.

The Finance Committee would like to encourage Friends to make their contributions to the Meeting before the fiscal year ends on June 30.

Peace of the Action

This article was forwarded to me by Chris Roberts last year. It's an article by Stephen Bates, that appeared in The Guardian, on the occasion of the 350th anniversary of Quakerism, which took place last year. The 351st anniversary is June 13. — ed.

The 17th century was a great time for new religions. There were the Levellers, who wanted an end to monarchy, the Diggers, who went around — briefly — cultivating common land, and the Ranters, who shouted a lot. But the only ones really left, 350 years on, are the Quakers, whose quiet reflection and gentle engagement with the outside world now merit universal respect.

Being who they are, the Quakers are not going in for much by way of celebration of their anniversary on June 13. That was the date in 1652 when the travelling preacher, George Fox, told 1,000 people near Sedburgh, Cumbria, about the inward light he had received from God. This is generally taken to be the birth of the movement.

Fox's revelation — that truth can be discerned through the inner voice of God, speaking directly to the soul, unmediated by pastors, preachers, priests or popes — continues to sustain more than 350,000 adherents worldwide and a rather more select 16,500 regular attenders in Britain. Not for them the showy pomp of other churches, the ululations of charismatics, the certainties of evangelicals or the desperate quest for relevance of trendy vicardom.

Long after the Levellers were driven off, and the Diggers hung up their spades, even after the Shakers — a noisier, but more isolated and segregated sect — have all but died out, leaving behind only their furniture designs, the Quakers still pursue their quiet faith. They have learned the trick of participating in the world without shouting at it, which must be a large part of their appeal — that and a consistent record of social concern.

The condition of prisoners continues to engage Quakers, nearly 200 years after Elizabeth Fry took up the cause. Fry's portrait on the newly designed £5 note, released yesterday, may be the only recognition the outside world pays to this year's anniversary. Her work in distributing food and clothes to those walled up in the desperate squalor of 19th-century jails finds an echo in the Quakers' current attempt to establish a scheme to help convicted sex offenders, society's current untouchables.

The Quakers' long-term commitment to pacifism, too, remains in initiatives to promote conflict resolution and non-confrontational strategies, even if today's intolerance and fanaticism causes even the most convinced believer to sigh in despair. Who could not warm to an organisation so concerned with moral values that a recent edition of its quarterly magazine, *Quaker News*, contains the headline: Are Your Shoelaces Ethical?

Quakers take such issues seriously. The article says that Quaker Robin Robison, on the board of an organisation called Ethical Trade International, is "both excited and optimistic about the real possibility of influencing the conditions of workers all over the world."

Attend a Quaker gathering in one of their unfussy meeting houses — or perhaps somewhere like the leisure centre where they rent a room in Chepstow, Monmouthshire, or the local St. John Ambulance headquarters in Halifax — and one can sense the timeless stillness that is their hallmark. Contemplation is accompanied by prayers and interventions by members of the meeting until, after an hour or so, an elder senses that the meeting is drawing to its natural conclusion and everyone shakes hands.

"Silent worship is a chance for unmediated communication with the divine; I really appreciate that," says Beth Allen, a long-time Quaker who works at Friends House, the London headquarters sited alongside the noisy tumult of the Euston Road. "Fundamentally, what it boils down to is, when all the singing and stuff [of more charismatic denominations] dies away, what have you got left?"

Her colleague, Martina Weitsch, says: "Worship based on silence is a good reason for me wanting to be a Quaker. Silence and stillness is a real gift that has kept us sane for 350 years."

Allen adds: "There is something about the integrity of Quakers. Your faith is not just for Sunday mornings; true godliness enables man to live better in the world. Religion is not supposed to take you away from reality — we don't know what happens when you die; it's about making sure your life does not make the world a worse place than it is and about how you might just contribute to making it better."

There are plenty of examples of Quakers doing just this. There is a remarkable litany of entrepreneurs and businessmen from the industrial revolution who were Quakers, doing well by doing good. Many of them seem to have made sweets: the Frys and the Cadburys

were Quakers, an interesting by-product of a society that denied them access to the professions because as non-Anglicans they were barred from attending university. As Quaker entrepreneurs they did not wish to be associated with suspect and unsavoury industries such as brewing.

“Of course, they did not know then how unhealthy chocolate could be,” says Eudora Pascall, the Quakers’ press officer, adding quietly: “My family made boiled sweets.”

Ah yes, Pascalls, makers of fruity sweets, originally a consolation and comfort to the troops in the trenches who sucked them to while away the hours of sentry duty. The Quakers may not have fought, but they certainly provided succour to the combatants who did: dressing their wounds, carrying them behind the lines — and sending them chocolate and boiled sweets.

The Quakers’ peace mission still finds its outlet in non-violence campaigning and the Turning the Tide campaign, which aims to show how cycles of conflict can be broken through negotiation and peace strategies. It is a philosophy based on seeing God in everyone; but in a world where fanatics see God only in themselves, Quaker workers admit they see an uphill struggle against irrationality and fanaticism, perhaps as difficult to overcome as any in their history.

Steve Whiting works on non-violence campaigning, promoting it as a means of creating positive change. He advises protest groups on their strategies, avoiding confrontation and provocation in putting their case. So has he ever been on a violent demonstration? “I have been in some situations where the feeling has not been right, where there has been tension and underlying hostility,” he says. “I have seen protesters beating police officers and police acting violently. One begets the other.”

Would the Quakers ever advise the forces of authority on non-violence? “No, because we are interested in social change and working with groups campaigning for social change,” Whiting eventually replies. “We are not advocating non-violence for its own sake, but to make a better world. We would enter dialogue with the police, but they have never asked us.”

So how do you tackle men who hijack planes, or blow themselves up in crowded snooker halls, confident their action will catapult them straight to paradise?

David Gee, of the Turning the Tide campaign, wrestles

with the issue. “If the world is irrational, all the more need,” he says, doggedly. “There are alternatives — some of the factors are cultural and historical. It is sometimes unavoidable to be despairing, but we can all be peace-makers in society. If we become too bound up in the politics, we lose a sense of the light.”

Undeniably, Quakers have had an influence in changing attitudes to peace — even if, as Whiting bitterly points out, war studies courses and military colleges far outnumber ones devoted to pacifism. Quakers may not be able to influence the Taliban, but they do work in war zones.

It is the sort of idealism that has sustained the Quakers for 350 years — a belief in finding answers within themselves, without resorting to the mediation of a church hierarchy or dogma.

Naturally, it is guided by Quaker faith and practice, a philosophy which is updated and voted on every generation or so. It states: “We have found corporately that the spirit, if rightly followed, will lead us into truth, unity and love: all our testimonies grow from this leading.”

It is difficult to leave Friends House without a warm glow of empathy for these transparently sincere people. Their creed might not work for everyone, but if we could all live like Quakers, the world would surely be a more pristine place.

Copyright Guardian Newspapers Limited

A Warm Weather Tip from the PYM Environmental Working Group

For those of you blessed with outdoor green space at home or lots of house plants, here is a way to save on resources. Keep a bucket by your sink or shower. As you run water to get it hot, catch the initially cold water in the bucket and use it on your plants. No only does this save on your water bill, but you never know when the next drought is going to start. If you have any environmentally friendly habits or projects, please send them to jboys@temple.edu.

The Environmental Working Group of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting meets first Mondays at Friends Center. Would you be interested in joining them? They would love the addition of your input and energy in their group.

June 2003

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10 am Meeting for Worship 11:30 REC Com	2	3	4 9:15 am All-school Meeting for Worship 6:30pm Frolic	5	6	7
8 9 am P&SC Com 10 am Mtg for Worship 10:45 Monthly Meeting for Business	9	10 7:30 pm Care Committee	11	12	13	14
15 10 am Meeting for Worship	16	17	18 7:30 Property Committee	19 7:30 pm Worship & Ministry	20	21
22 10 am Meeting for Worship 10:30 am Quarterly Meeting at Mt. Laurel	23	24	25	26	27	28 FGC Annual Gathering (runs to July 5)
29 10 am Meeting for Worship	30	Other dates to remember: August 10 – 10:45 Monthly Meeting August 17 – deadline for September newsletter September 27-28 – Haddonfield retreat				