

Quakerphernalia

The Newsletter of Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

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Deadline for Quakerphernalia : By the 10th day of the preceding months publication

February 2014

- Feb 1 9am BQ Budget and Nominating Meets at Wrightstown
Feb 2 Noon Peace Fair Quaker Conversation at Buckingham (See Article for details)
Feb 12 1pm Chandler Hall Aux Meets in the cafe in the Wright Meeting Hall ~ Blue Bird Chorus to Perform
Feb 13 7pm BQ Oversight Committee Meets at the Jane Jackson House
Feb 15 10-Noon Monthly Meeting Religious Ed. Comm Members Meet at Buckingham Meetinghouse
Feb 15 6pm Games Night at Buckingham
Feb 16 9am-3pm Quarterly Meeting at Middletown Meeting
Feb 17 6pm Bucks Food For Friends at Fallsington Meetinghouse
Feb 20 1:30 Friends Home and Village Board Meets at Friends Village

Looking Ahead

- March 9 6-10pm Spring Benefit for United Friends School - springbenefit@unitedfriendsschool.org
March & April Prayer Course at the Wrightstown Meetinghouse
July 24-27 PYM Annual Session at Muhlenberg College, Allentown PA

Chandler Hall Worship Services will be organized by
February ~ Newtown March ~ Solebury April ~ Wrightstown
Worship 11:00**Arrive 10:45**

Sunday, February 16 ~ Quarterly Meeting for Worship, Fellowship, and Business
Join Friends and Share Your Light
Middletown Monthly Meeting 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
452 W. Maple Ave, Langhorne, PA 19047

Schedule of Events

9:00: Registration and refreshments

9:30 to Noon: Children's Program: Details Below

9:30 to 11:00: Adult Program: Details Below

11:00 to Noon: Worship

Children's Program: Nurturing All God's Children

The children will explore the tools/equipment that help their Special Needs classmates participate in school.

The purpose of the experience is to help the children develop an empathy for and understanding of the lives of their Special Needs classmates. We hope the day will help our children develop a supportive attitude toward Special Needs children.

We are fortunate to have Pat Mervine, a speech/language pathologist for the Bucks Co. Intermediate Unit, who will share her book, "How Katie Got Her Voice". Pat is also bringing some of the equipment she uses to help her students.

As a supplemental service and outreach project, Pat is asking if individuals or Meeting communities would consider donating a new or used, in good condition, battery powered toy that has a simple on/off switch. The toys will be used to teach "cause and effect" to Special Needs students who are in IU programs. Please bring the toy or toys with you to Quarterly Meeting in February.

Adult Program: Young Adult Friends in Meeting Community. We will aim to gain practical awareness and real-time knowledge that will help you and your meetings successfully grapple with the decline of Young Adult participation in the Religious Society of Friends. We will discuss facts, dismantle preconceptions, think about best "interaction strategies", and think preliminarily about action steps we can bring back to our monthly meetings. Zachary T. Dutton, Western Quarterly Meeting Coordinator and Co-Clerk of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Young Adult Friends Working Group will facilitate the session.

11:45 -1:00 Lunch: BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag), desserts and beverages provided by Middletown Friends

1pm-3pm: Meeting for Business: We will hear from Doylestown, Makefield and Quakertown Meetings, the BQ Outreach Committee, the Coordinator, and the draft budget for 2014-2015 will be presented.

**Note: All agenda items for Quarterly Meeting must be to the clerk,
Boris Simkovich, one week prior to Quarterly Meeting.**

boris@simkovich.com

LIVES PASSING

Doylestown Meeting and the Pennswood Village community suffer the loss of **Pat Howe** who died on January 4. Buckingham Friends suffer the loss of **Margaret Bye Ritchie** who passed on December 30th just a few days after her 100th birthday. Wrightstown Friends suffer the loss of **Elizabeth (Betty) Smith** who passed on December 26th.

A QUAKER CONVERSATION BUCKS QUARTER PEACE FAIR

As many of you know by now, the future of the Bucks Quarter Peace Fair is in a delicate position. Hopefully you have heard about this at your December Meeting for Worship and Business. If you have more to offer or missed Monthly Meeting, please come to the Quaker Conversation on **February 2nd at Noon at the Buckingham Friends meetinghouse**. The theme is "Bucks Quarterly Meeting Peace Fair; What is our vision?"

QUAKERPHERNALIA BY EMAIL

If you would prefer to receive your Quakerphernalia electronically, contact Holly Olson at hollybQc@verizon.net

PHILADELPHIA YEARLY MEETING THREAD GATHERINGS

Thread Gatherings bring Friends from many monthly meetings together for a shared sense of community and calling. Each gathering focuses on one primary thread (topic) and offers workshops, experience sharing, wisdom sharing and more.

For more information go to:

<http://www.pym.org/thread-gatherings/>

The following Gatherings are scheduled for 2014:

Communications February 15

Pastoral Care February 22

Stewardship of Finances April 19

Peace & Social Concerns April 26

MIDWEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Tuesdays at Southampton 7:30 PM
Wednesdays at Lehigh Valley 5:00 PM
Wednesdays at Makefield 7:00 AM
Thursdays at Middletown 7:00 PM
Wednesdays at Plumstead 9:00AM

GAMES NIGHT AT BUCKINGHAM

You are Invited!

Buckingham Friends invite you to Games Night. Games Night happens on the third **Saturday of the month** running October, November, and January through May. The evening begins at **6:00** with a pot luck meal and then the games begin. For the most part all of the games are multigenerational and none are electronic so leave your devices at home and enjoy an evening of community fellowship. It is not unusual for this fun to continue past 9:00. You are welcome to come and go any time you wish.

5684 Old York Rd Lahaska, PA 18931

PYM JUNIOR INTERIM MEETING AND YOUNG FRIENDS GATHERINGS

Junior Interim Meeting will be held on **February 8th** during Interim Meeting for the adults.

"The Children of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting are called to make the world a better place by finding fun ways to care for specific environments so that creatures living there can be healthy." Children's Priority, 2013-2015

Junior Interim Meeting is an opportunity for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's children to take part in God's Big Idea for them.

Junior Interim Meeting builds on the Children's Priority, a calling that the children of PYM hear as a group, and address with Quaker business methods. The **Young Friends Winter Gathering** will run **Feb 7, 7pm to Feb 9 at noon** at the Haddonfield Friends meetinghouse.

The PYM Young Friends program provides a spiritual home for high-school-aged Quakers and their friends through explorations of community, spirituality, leadership, and fun!

PRAYER COURSE ~ LIVING A PRAYERFUL LIFE

March 9, 23, 30 and April 13

2:00 - 3:30PM at the Wrightstown Friends Meetinghouse

"Living A Prayerful Life" is a prayer course that was developed by a Peter Lang of Summit Chatham MM specifically with Friends in mind. For George Fox and early Friends prayer was described as inward retirement, "waiting upon the Lord". In our modern, high-tech, busy world it often appears that prayer and living have come to be widely separated. No matter what stage of life that we find ourselves in, true prayer offers the opportunity to grow deeper in Quaker faith and become open to the Power of God's love.

The three-fold purpose of the Prayer Course is to lead us to a deeper relationship with God, to discern how prayer leads to action and to deepen the spiritual life of our meetings. This will be an experiential program in the tradition of our Quaker search for truth. The participants will be asked to commit themselves to a period of daily prayer, to keep a prayer journal and to hold each other in the Light during the Prayer Course.

"Living A Prayerful Life" will consist of four sessions, which will include presentations, discussion and the practice of prayer. It will be an open forum in that questions and comments are encouraged throughout the program. Although Friends are encouraged to attend all four sessions, as we will be making a commitment to prayer and to each other, each session is also a separate unit and you are welcome to attend as many as possible.

Therefore, come and join us on this amazing journey as we learn how to look at and practice prayer in new and exciting ways. You may be surprised at what happens to you!

Note recommended reading: Pendle Hill Pamphlets, **"Prayer: Beginning Again"** by Sheila Keane and, **"Holding One Another In The Light"** by Marcelle Martin.

To register: Holly Olson at hollybQc@verizon.net or 215-860-9747. **Space limited to 25 participants**

Cost: \$10

*This version of the November Quarterly Meeting minutes contains the edited highlights.
The minutes in full detail will be brought to Quarterly Meeting in February at
Buckingham Monthly Meeting for consideration.*

**BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
November 17, 2013
Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting, Bethlehem PA**

Clerk: Amy Ward Brimmer (Fallsington)

Recording Clerk: David Rose (Lehigh Valley)

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol:1, Buckingham:1, Doylestown:0, Fallsington: 1, LehighValley: 9, Makefield: 2, Middletown:3, Newtown:2, Plumstead: 0, Quakertown NJ: 0, Solebury:0, Southampton: 0, Wrightstown:1, Yardley: 2.

Minutes reviewed and approved.

Stories of Vitality and Growth within MMs were shared.

Coordinators Report: Report given by Holly Olson (Middletown MM). Full report is available. Inreach portion reported on Quaker Parenting Initiative, Clerks Meeting, Camp Onas, Religious Education meeting, Skating party, and the upcoming Prayer Course. Outreach portion reported on Preparing for the Best of Your Life workshop, Fallsington Day, "Keep Calm" Quarter T Shirts and Sweatshirts, and upcoming Diversity day at Chandler Hall. Report concluded with a discussion about the Peace Fair and the need for the Quarter to assume responsibility and active involvement for it.

Newtown MM Annual Report given by Clerk Wendy Kane. Full Report is available. Membership has grown by 15% over the past five years. Numerous outreach efforts and opportunities for involvement with the meeting community were described. A reason for this growth is a coordination of events with Newtown Friends School.

Friends Camp Association (Camp Onas) Annual Report given by Tom Olson (Middletown MM) for Paul McAndrew (Lehigh Valley MM). Annual Report available. Camp has had full enrollment. 18% of campers are Quaker. Camp has new Directors, Holly and Matt Hecht. Information provided on Camperships. There are still openings for full meeting representation on the Camp Onas board.

Friends Home and Village report was given by Mary Ann DuGann, Executive Director. Friends Home Started in 1897 as a boarding home for Quaker Woman in Newtown. In the 1970 donation of land outside of Newtown resulted in building of Village. FHV is now licensed to provide home care. FHV is now connected with Friends Life Care. There are openings on the Board. Residents are around 20% Quaker. A number of comments from persons present that FHV is a caring community.

Budget Report given by Betsy Bayardi (Wrightstown MM). Investigation completed as promised on overage on Administration line item. Some lessons that were learned were that book keeping is good and that we need to increase budgeting for printing and phone. Committee is looking for ways to review expenses as part of the process of paying the bills. It would help reduce expenses if more persons received Quakerphernalia electronically.

Treasurer's Report given by Tim Dwyer (Bristol MM). Contributions have been received from individuals plus Solebury and Yardley Monthly Meeting toward the Additional Contributions line item which closed the budget gap of approximately \$3,500. Receiving of contributions from Meetings is in line with prior history.

Nomination request was made by Betsy Bayardi asking the Quarter for help to fill the need for successor to the current Treasurer and an Assistant Treasurer. Boris Simkovich was presented for approval as the person to be slated as the new Clerk of the Quarter. Meeting approved.

Minute regarding Peace Fair read by Boris Simkovich (Makefield MM and incoming QM Clerk)

MINUTE 1

The Bucks Quarter Peace Fair, held each year in the fall on the Buckingham Friends campus, is one of the Quarter's most important outreach events. Attendance at the Fair is both strong and growing.

Although the Fair is under the care of Bucks Quarter, it has been staffed primarily by volunteers from Buckingham Friends Meeting and Young Friends from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM).

This approach to staffing, however, is no longer viable – in part because of the Fair's growth, and in part because PYM is no longer able to support participation of PYM Young Friends to the same extent as in the past. Thus, unless an alternative approach to staffing the Fair can be found, it will not be able to continue, and will need to be laid down.

The Quarter therefore requests that each of its monthly meetings consider

- Appointing a member or attender of the meeting to be on the Peace Fair organizing committee
- Taking on, as a meeting, responsibility for one of the 5-6 main activities required to prepare for, publicize, carry out, and wind down the Peace Fair (a list of such activities, with approximate time commitments, is attached)

The Quarter also requests that each of its monthly meetings provide feedback to the Clerk of the Quarter by February 1, 2014 about the meeting's ability to assist with the Fair's planning and organization in the ways outlined above.

This feedback will then be reviewed by the current Peace Fair organizing committee so that a decision about the Fair's future can be made at the Quarter's meeting for business on February 16, 2014.

Minute approved.

Meeting closed with a period of silent gathering at 2:45.

Friendly Services Offered and Friendly Services Needed

"Simply Real" News is Growing!

Published monthly w/Quaker Values

Times Publishing Newspapers, Inc. has rolled out with our ninth newspaper in Bucks County - the Fairless FOCUS. Covering the Fairless Hills area our new total mailed (via US Postal Service) circulation is 115,716 households and businesses. We cover "all the 'good news' that's fit to print." Over the past 18 years we've started and continue to publish these additional 8 monthly publications: Yardley VOICE, Morrisville TIMES, Newtown GAZETTE, Northampton HERALD, Lower Southampton SPIRIT, Langhorne LEDGER, New Hope NEWS, and the Doylestown OBSERVER.

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