



# Yardley Friends Meeting Newsletter

65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067

www.YardleyFriendsMeeting.org

Ed Snyder, Clerk

Meeting for Worship: 10:00—11:00

First Day School: 10:00—10:45 (except summer)

June 2008

## ***Coming Events...***

*Note: First Day School ends for the summer with the picnic on June 1.*

**June 1** - Clerks' meeting before Meeting for Worship  
**FDS Picnic** after MfW!

**June 7** - Zoo Friends Fun(d)raiser for Friends Home & Village

**June 8** - Meeting for Business after Meeting for Worship

**June 13** - Potluck dinner and discussion of living "green"

**June 15** - Meeting for Worship  
Book Discussion Group, 1:00—3:00

**June 22** - Meeting for Worship  
Adult Discussion group after MfW

**June 29** - Meeting for Worship

### **Greeter for June:**

Dick Ryniker

### **Superintendent for June:**

Ted Taylor

*Let us become silent that we may hear the whisper of the gods...there is guidance for each of us, and by lowly listening we shall hear the right word.*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

## **FRIDAY THE 13TH POTLUCKY**

On Friday, June 13th, the Worship and Ministry Committee invites you to bring a dish to our potluck dinner (we're calling it a potlucky in honor of the day). Pamela Retseck will share her knowledge and expertise in the area of recycling and reuse.

Many of us are already doing things to help the environment; please bring any suggestions you have, and any questions. This is still an evolving field: what was thought to be true five years ago has sometimes turned out to be not so true after all; and there is still controversy about the relative impact of our actions. A good rule of thumb is to adhere to the 4 R's, in the following order of priority: Reduce, Reuse, Refurbish, and Recycle. So come and find out more about it!

## **FY 2009 Budget Update**

Just a Friendly reminder: the Meeting's fiscal year ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. At this time the Meeting is approximately \$8,000 dollars short of the budgeted income. So if you would like to make a contribution, just write a check to "Yardley Friends Meeting" and leave it in the Treasurer's mail bin on the shelf above the coat rack, just inside the door. If it's easier to mail the check, it can be mailed to Yardley Friends Meeting, 65 North Main St., Yardley, PA 19067. (Pre-addressed envelopes are usually available at the end of the shelf.) Remember, your contributions are tax-deductible!

## **Next Book for Discussion, June 15**

A Gift from the Sea, by Ann Morrow Lindbergh. And later this summer, Chesapeake, by James Michener. Time to start on that one!

## AROUND THE MEETINGHOUSE...

### **News Notes...**

Congratulations to **Carol Smith** on her graduation from Holy Family College with a BS in Nursing!

---

**Need a ride** to Meeting? Call 609-530-0756. Ernie will arrange for someone to pick you up and take you back.

---

**Sandy Gibson** asks that you save any really big boxes (like washer, TV, or large UPS boxes) for the White Elephant Extravaganza. The liquor-type boxes we usually use are rather small and make the task of moving and storing items cumbersome.

---

Bring a mug to Meeting! They're easier to handle than cups as we wander around at elevenses, and they're greener than paper cups.

---

Installation of the new ceiling fans is almost complete. These fans will help move air in the meeting room and in the social room, making both the heating system and the air conditioning more efficient.

*Do YOU have news for the Newsletter? Changes to your address, phone or e-mail? Want to be on our mailing list? We also have an email group to keep you up to date on current happenings.*

*Contact Betty Steckman at [alphabet-ty123@earthlink.net](mailto:alphabet-ty123@earthlink.net), 609-393-0015.*

## PYM SUMMER SESSIONS AT DESALES UNIVERSITY

From July 30 through August 3 we will come together as a Yearly Meeting at DeSales University near Allentown PA. The theme is "Sharing Our Journeys: In Light, Love, and Peace."

In plenary Meeting for Business we will explore the Governance Report from Interim Meeting, the future of the Arch Street Meeting House, our testimonies, and the budget. We'll have information about the 2009 Gathering on Peace and epistles from the Standing Committees, and we'll experiment with a process for discerning the Yearly Meeting's priorities. We will continue delving into our understanding of the Peace Testimony while keeping lots of time for worship, for responses, and for moving with the Spirit. And we will enjoy ourselves, of course! There will be workshops and good food and inspiring stories and speakers and music and fresh air and several generations living in loving community.

There will also be special, age-appropriate programs and activities for children and young adults.

For updates and details on the schedule for Yearly Meeting Sessions, please see our ever-evolving website: [www.pym.org/annualsessions](http://www.pym.org/annualsessions). Deadline for registration is July 1.

---

## FGC GATHERING IN JOHNSTOWN JUNE 28 - JULY 5

If you've never been to a Friends General Conference Gathering, this could be your year! The Gathering will be held in Johnstown, PA, at the branch campus of the University of Pittsburgh with the theme "Courageously Faithful." During the week of the Gathering, there will be workshops, evening plenary sessions, interest groups, field trips, exhibits, films, performances, games, and dozens of activities organized by affinity groups and other Quaker organizations. There is always more to do than any one person can possibly experience! And not least, there is also quiet space whenever you want it, and time for worship as well.

Financial aid is available from Yardley Friends Meeting. In addition, there are transportation options such as the train (with shuttle connections if they know you're coming), and possible bus and carpool sharing.

For more information and to register, visit the website at [www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/2008](http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/2008).

## **GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH**

By Peter Christine

(Reprinted with permission from the Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting newsletter)

As spring unfolds many Quakers enjoy the outdoors by digging up some of that unhealthy, greenhouse gas generating lawn, and planting vegetables. We're assuming you already grow organically, so we want to show you one way you might consider making your garden a little greener—**Saving Seeds.**

Saving seeds is, in a sense, more of an ethical issue than an environmental one. In the past seed hybridizers lamented the unprofitability of their trade, because once they came up with a better variety of crop, farmers could just buy their seed one year, and save seed for the rest of their lives. Then the F1 hybrid was discovered. This is the cross of two inbred lines of plants, and produces a crop with lots of vigor. However, when a farmer tries to save seeds from an F1 hybrid, they don't "come true," meaning they don't have the same characteristics of their parents. Now the farmer had to buy seed every year.

An even better deal for seed companies came with genetically modified seeds. These seeds are actually patented, and while you can usually save the seeds from their plants, you have to pay a fee, or be fined. This patenting of life is particularly alarming, when you take into consideration that most of our most important food crops: corn, potatoes, wheat originated in the third world. What right does an American seed company, like Monsanto, have to charge a Mexican for intellectual property for corn seed, when it was the Mexican's ancestors who domesticated corn in the first place?

Fortunately, there have only been four crops successfully genetically modified (for now): corn, canola, soybeans, and cotton. However, buying main line hybrid seeds helps profit these large seed companies. This concentration of power over seeds is doubly dangerous, as it threatens to narrow the range of plants grown. New hybrids and genetically modified plants are not created to create more variety; they are a push towards reliable, consistent, homogenous food. The direction of the nation's agriculture is towards increased

conformity, which means that all your carrots should be exactly the same, so they can be more easily harvested, packaged and marketed. What happens when we only have one variety of carrot being grown, however? The Irish Potato Famine dramatically illustrates the dangers of reduced genetic diversity.

Saving seeds is a gentle protest against the commodification of our food. Technically, you should be able to save seeds from any plant, as long as it isn't an F1 hybrid. But if you take the time to look for heritage, or heirloom varieties, you will be saving a wealth of genetic diversity, and diversity of flavors, for the future. An internet search yields an abundance of companies selling heritage seeds of all kinds.

### **FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE TO YFM MEMBERS**

Yardley Meeting is once again offering scholarships (grants) to Members attending Quaker schools. The scholarships are made possible by using income generated by the Werner and Nellie Sonntag Fund and are independent of any scholarship provided by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting or other sources.

The amount of the scholarships is dependent on the number of applications and the income received. For this year the projected scholarships will range from \$800-\$1000. The Meeting is accepting applications from July 1 to August 30, 2008. To request an application please contact Joseph Sites.

### **Educational Loans**

Educational loans are available through the Elizabeth C. Baldwin Scholarship Fund. These educational loans are 0% interest loans that are requested to be repaid in a timely manner. The total amount of a loan is limited to \$10,000, but only \$2,500 per year can be requested.

Applicants are encouraged to choose a Friends college, but may attend any college, technical school, school of nursing, etc. For additional information or an application, please contact Ed Snyder.

### **Camp Onas Scholarships**

This year, the Meeting has set aside \$1,250 for Camp Onas Scholarships. As in the past, the scholarship amount will be equally divided among the campers. The deadline for scholarship requests is June 20<sup>th</sup>. To be included in the Camp Onas scholarships, contact Joe Sites.

## **TWELFTH QUERY: 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?*

Yardley Friends Meeting  
65 North Main Street  
Yardley, PA 19067