

# Gwynedd Monthly Meeting of Friends Newsletter

Meeting for Worship: 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.  
Foulkeways: Thursdays: 10a.m.  
First Day School (Sept-June): 9:45a.m.  
www.gwyneddfriends.org



**February 2004**

## **Philadelphia Yearly Meeting March 25 -28, 2004**

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting sessions will run from Thursday morning, March 25, to Sunday morning, March 28, at the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia.

Friends of all ages, theologies, persuasions, and opinions will come together to worship, do business, dance, laugh, share stories, and experience the love we envision for the world. The agenda and registration materials will be mailed in late February. Please give them prompt attention, as the deadline for Children's Program registration and hotel reservations is Monday, March 8. Advance information will be available at [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org)

## **Query on Equality**

How does our Meeting help to create and maintain a society whose institutions recognize and do away with the inequities rooted in patterns of prejudice and economic convenience?

Is our Meeting open to all regardless of race, ability, sexual orientation, or class?

What steps are we taking as a Meeting to assure that our Meeting and the committees and institutions under our care reflect our respect for all and are free from practices rooted in prejudice?

### **Highlights:**

*Meeting for Business, p.2*

*Youth Group, p. 5*

*State of the Meeting Report, p. 6*

*Gathering Garden, p.8*

*Do I examine myself for aspects of prejudice that may be buried, including beliefs that seem to justify biases based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, class, and feelings of inferiority*

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/ FDS SCHEDULE**

- Feb. 1 Quarterly Meeting at Plymouth . No Adult FDS
- Feb. 8 Intergenerational Breakfast + Secret Friends
- Feb. 15 Meeting for Business
- Feb. 22 Peace Center - Barbara Simmons
- Feb. 29 Realignment of Rt. 2002 and its Effects on the Meeting Property Joan Meschter
- Mar. 7 Worship & Ministry FDS

*or superiority?*

*What am I doing to help overcome the contemporary effects of past and present oppression?*

*Am I teaching my children, and do I show through my way of living, that love of God includes affirming the equality of people, treating others with dignity and respect, and seeking to recognize and address that of God within every person?*



## Gwynedd Monthly Meeting Minutes (Condensed Draft)

January 18, 2004. The fifth query on education was read and responded to by June Hollowell and considered by the meeting. The clerk asked for comments on the proposed agenda displayed at the front of the meeting room. There were none.

**Two travel minutes** were read and approved by the meeting. The Henderson's will be traveling to Japan in February. Mickey Edgerton will be going to Nashville, Tennessee next week as an elder for a couple in traveling ministries.

**Recorder:** June Hollowell reported the death of our member Alfred Simpson Martin.

June read the Recorder's Annual Report. Gwynedd membership increased by two during 2003 to a total of 319. There was one membership transfer to Gwynedd and five new members by application. There was one member death, two transfers from Gwynedd and one resignation. During the year there were two marriages and one birth. Six member minors turned 21 during 2003.

**Nominating Committee:** Four new members for Nominating Committee were recommended by Mickey Edgerton and Gary Lapreziosa: Ginny Bergey, Cyndy Blumenthal, Vicky Hain-Poorman, and Craig Trueblood. The meeting approved these recommendations.

The meeting expressed its' appreciation to Judy Flanagan who has been clerk of Nominating Committee and is now leaving the committee. The meeting recognizes the important and valuable work she did as clerk of the committee. The meeting expressed thanks for the hard work of the committee as a whole and reaffirmed the importance of the committee in finding gifts of meeting members.

**Treasurer:** Karen Russell gave the quarterly treasurer's report for the three months

ending December 31, 2003. Contact Karen if you would like a copy of the detailed report. Highlights of the report include:

Quarter income: \$23,925 (budgeted: \$20,540).

Revenue: \$62,735 (budgeted: \$58,661)

Expenses: \$38,810 (budgeted: \$36,016)

General fund balance: \$42,161

Restricted funds: \$107,799

The over budget expenses are attributed to property for janitorial services and lawn care.

Highlights of the quarterly financial report for Hilltop include:

Quarter income: \$46,006

Revenue: \$51,839 (contributions  
\$50,000, rent \$1,800)

Expenses: \$5,833

Account total: \$49,592

**Property:** Arnold Trueblood read the monthly property report for Neil Trueblood. There was a frozen baseboard and supply line in the closet at the north corner of the Community Room. C-Anne found it quickly and Bi-County responded almost immediately, limiting the damage. Mike Belinsky reinstalled the insulation over the classroom wing this week and tightened up where the leak occurred last winter. Dick Ott coordinated our alarm system service companies to minimize cost and confusion. Keystone is the principal company to oversee the fire and sprinkler and related alarm systems and yearly inspections. Keystone will also perform some overdue maintenance replacing emergency light batteries and train members of the Meeting on the various systems.

Friends are asked to use the entry through the lobby to Meeting and First Day School Rooms and not outside doors during cold spells to minimize heat loss. The heat will be turned on Saturday night so the room is warm for early meeting. Due to the varied use of the service Property is undertaking a study of the current heating controls to see if a more user friendly

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Meeting for Business, continued from page 2)*

system may be retrofitted in the Meeting-house. A simpler means to control the heat during temporary occupancy may be warranted.

Bill Pye reported recent trimming and removal of a dead tree.

**Route 202 Expansion** –scheduled construction for fall of 2005. Arnold Trueblood installed stakes with orange flags to indicate the proposed new property line once the new road is finished. The actual curb line with the new road will be 12' further away from this new line. Our entryway from 202 to our parking area will be affected.

Property plans to engage an appraiser to evaluate the loss of property, trees etc for compensation negotiations. Joan Meschter gave an overview. The Route 202 - Sumneytown Pike corner will be widening to accommodate large, turning trucks. Joan described the process and people involved with PennDOT who are there to work with us. Joan displayed a map showing what will be the "disturbed" areas and the 25 trees that will be cut down, 4 trees that will be moved.

**Concerns:** Damaged root systems, trunks and branches, death of trees long after the PennDOT project is over, the retaining wall near the schoolhouse – only 22 feet from the building, access to school and meeting, replacing one for one of lost trees, the ancient British grave markers, and impact of noise and construction on attracting new members. The maps and plans will be on display probably be in the library.



**Hilltop:** Russ Bishop read the Hilltop property report prepared by Neil Trueblood. There was a freeze in the building and six radiators were lost. The house is now being checked daily. They are looking into submitting an insurance claim. New occupants are being considered for the Hilltop property after earlier groups dropped out. The barn will be available for rent in March 2004.

Al Hubbs reported on fundraising for Hilltop.

A new core committee has been formed for this task. That committee consists of Rol Henderson, Al Hubbs and Doug Tweddale, although they welcome others to the committee. Al reported on their work toward the fundraising vision, goals and plans. They are meeting on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> to make further plans. Twenty to thirty solicitors will be needed for the fundraising effort. They hope actual fundraising will start by March.

**Peace and Social Action:** Joan Johnston reported that Peace and Social Actions is encouraging Friends to subscribe to Friends Committee on National Legislation news via the internet. There will be information on the web site (fcm.org) about letter writing in response to social issues and pending legislation.

Joan announced the family we support at Hope Gardens has moved out. We need volunteers to help repaint the apartment. There are a few professionals who have volunteered. Feb 7<sup>th</sup> is the date for the painting party at Hope Gardens, contact is Al Paschkis if you can pitch in.

Gary Lapreziosa reported on the design of a Quaker Economics 101 course. The course will focus on stewardship of the Earth's resources. The course is currently being tested at other meetings; it starts at Chestnut Hill meeting on Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, every other Sunday from 6:30 to 8:30. Contact Drebymans@igc.org.

Mary Margaret announced the Pendle Hill series Peace Initiatives Forum will be held at Swarthmore College, Thursdays at 7:30. A bus will be leaving from Folkways every Thursday at 6:15 for anyone who would like to attend. The fee is \$6.50. Contact Mary Margaret Bailey if you are interested.

**Peace Camp:** Jan Henderson gave an update on Gwynedd Meeting's Summer Peace Camp plans.

The committee now has 14 people with 4 sub-committees having been formed. Camp dates are planned for Aug 9 to 13 and 16 to 20. Age range is 6 to 11. There have been

*(Continued on page 4)*



# Gwynedd Friends Coffeehouse

**Doors open 7:30 PM; Program starts at 8 PM**

## Coffeehouse Schedule for Winter & Spring 2004

- February 7: Broadside Electric - Electric world folk
- March 6: Christopher Westfall (return engagement): He specializes in the music of John Denver and also includes material from contemporary folk and pop artists.  
Web site: <http://www.chriswestfall.com>
- April 3: Bakshi Family & Friends - variety of classical selections
- May 1: To be announced
- 



## Pendle Hill Peace Network

There will be a series of speakers on Thursday evenings at Swarthmore College (see the flyer on the Bulletin Board). A bus will be leaving Foulkeways at 6:15 for the series and could have room for a few Meeting members. The cost will be \$6.50 each trip and will leave Foulkeways at 6:15 for the 7:30 Meeting. Call Mary Margaret Bailey if you are interested in going. (215 283 7355) Or Shirley Hathaway (215 283 7223) We will be going this coming Thursday, January 22, and other Thursdays. There is no cost for the series.

*(Meeting for Business. continued from page 3)*

10 applicants for teaching and administration at the camp. Helene Huber reports that a small grant to support the Peace Camp may be possible, from an organization to which she is connected.

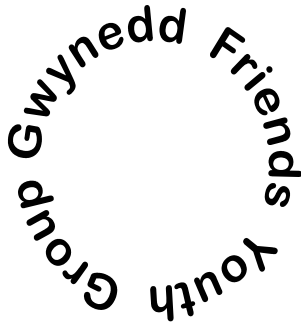


**Religious Education:** Pegene McPhaden reported changes in the schedule for adult religions education: *(See page 1 for the schedule)*

**Preschool:** Susan Lockwood announced that they will be preparing health kits for Mozambique children orphaned by HIV parents. Each kit must contain a \$10 donation for transportation and delivery; the preschool is asking for help from the meeting members with the monetary donations for the kits. Send contributions to Pam Calentine or put donations in an envelope in the lock box, marked for the Preschool HIV project.

**Annual State of the Meeting Report:** Lea Stabinski read the report and the meeting expressed appreciation to Lea for her work.

The meeting was asked to consider the life of our non-attending members and to consider how we can better reach out to them.



This has been a planning month for the youth group and we would therefore like to pass on to the meeting some important projects and activities coming up.

The youth group has decided to help Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County. This organization is currently building the largest habitat project in the northeast, Emerald Hollow, located in Trumbauersville. This project will offer housing for families less fortunate. The youth group will be helping this effort in three ways, and we are asking the support of the Meeting.

1. You have already begun helping us by donating washed aluminum cans and tabs. Please continue to do so in the boxes located under our bulletin board. These funds will go towards creating a welcome basket for a new family moving in to the development. We will collect through spring.

2. February 29<sup>th</sup> – 10:00–11:30 a.m. in the community room. The youth group along with any other child who would like to help (1<sup>st</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup> grade FDS is invited to join us) will be building birdhouses in the community room. Habitat for Humanity with the volunteer work of Home Depot will supply all the materials and tools. We will be offering these to the meetinghouse for donations. This money will go towards planting a tree at one of the Habitat houses. We hope to plant the tree April 18<sup>th</sup>. A tree cost \$160 so please consider taking one of our beautiful birdhouses home. They will be on display outside the office.

3. We are looking for volunteers to join the youth group in actually helping to build houses on the Trumbauersville site. Any one 15 years or older may build. You are required to build for a full day 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. We would like to open this up to adults in the Meeting who would like to spend the day with youth at Gwynedd making a difference in their community. Possible dates are: March 20<sup>th</sup> or April 24<sup>th</sup>. As soon as I get a confirmed date, I will email the meetinghouse. We will have a sign up sheet on our bulletin board. Please sign up **now** to help and I will call you with

a date very soon so you can keep this date open.

Other dates in February:

On February 29<sup>th</sup> after we build our birdhouses, we will order out pizza for lunch, have a brief business meeting and then take off to rock climbing at the Philadelphia Rock Climbing Gym. We will return around 4:30 p.m.

Also, we are looking for pictures from our mystery dinner held in November. If you have any please donate a copy to the youth group. You can place them in the mailbox labeled youth in the office.

Parents, please help your child/teen remember youth group dates. Whether he/she is a regular attendee or not, they are always welcome to attend any youth group event. Contact Laura Taylor at [llt901@comcast.net](mailto:llt901@comcast.net) or myself Pauline Rosa-Martir Schepperd at [Cassandra.night@verizon.net](mailto:Cassandra.night@verizon.net)



### PRESCHOOL HELPS CHILDREN IN MOZAMBIQUE

As part of our February service project, preschool families will be making hygiene kits for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS in Mozambique. This is an AFSC project and they have requested that a \$10.00 donation accompany each kit to take care of associated costs. If there is anyone in meeting who would like to help us with this project and could make a monetary contribution it would be gratefully appreciated. The money could be given directly to the Preschool Director, Pam Calentine. Or it could be put in a labeled envelope in the meeting off ice lock box.

## STATE OF THE MEETING - 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Friends, it has been a busy and productive year for us. Constant beneath all that we do, the cycle of life in the meeting continues: births, graduations, marriages, divorces, illnesses and the deaths of our dear ones. We continue to hold and love one another through the triumphs and sorrows that we all experience at various points in our lives. We struggle together to hear God's guidance for us. We try hard to be "good Quakers" and we often fail, yet we try again and again because it is worth it, because it feels good, peaceful and rightly ordered when we do so. The vitality of our Meeting indicates that our efforts to be faithful Quakers are meeting with some success.

This year the discernment of the right use of the Hilltop property began with a retreat at Burlington and continued throughout the year. The discernment process resulted in the formation of two subcommittees: Expanding Educational Opportunities at Gwynedd (EEOG) reporting to the Hilltop Committee and a Peace Center subcommittee reporting to Peace and Social Action. We have planned a small start (a 2 week Peace camp this year) to be followed by plans to help Middle School students at risk, an EEOG endeavor. The use of the Hilltop house will remain flexible for the near future, rather than committing it to a permanent use. The Academy of Community Music is interested in using the Hilltop property and we are continuing to consider future involvement with this wonderful program. There has been no decision about the founding of a new physical school on the site, but there is much interest, in the long term, for an alternative school.

Our committees work hard in responding the needs of the Meeting. The property requires continual care and in addition to the routine issues, the house subcommittee arranged workdays and shepherded the much-needed guidelines for the use of the meeting property.

Our spiritual life requires continual care as well. Our Pastoral care/Overseers members tend us in a very personal way, as they continue their own deeper exploration of how they may serve the meeting. They have written original and revised pamphlets for our guidance. A new effort to fund our children's education in Friend's schools is under their care.

Worship and Ministry continues to support us in heading the meeting for worship, welcoming people, inviting the sharing of sorrows and joys and in providing for the physical and spiritual care of our children.

Peace and Social Action cares for others and us by providing a weekly time for worship for peace, by bringing important situations and events to our attention, and by overseeing the Peace Center subcommittee. HARP (Helping Arts Reach Peace) nurtures us by giving us ways we can use our energies and creativity to bring peace to the world.

With Nominating Committee's careful discernment, they populate the Meeting's standing committees and the officer's positions by inviting individuals to serve the meeting in a great variety of ways. Because Nominating makes contact with many people across the Meeting and across committees, it is in a unique position to have an overview of the Meeting's health, and Nominating Committee has been helpful in bringing forth observations for the Meeting to consider.

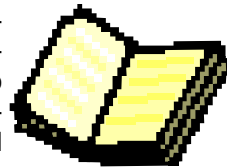
The Meeting has supported our clerks in their roles by providing opportunities quarterly for exchanging ideas and for helping each other questions arise about their individual committees. Overseers sponsored meeting-wide sessions on clerking to help remind us of Quaker process and why it works. We were reminded of our personal responsibility for the quality of worship and for the right ordering of business in any meeting.

As a way of caring for the meeting, Coordinating Committee took on a complete review of the Plan of Organization, to help committees assess what they do, what they might want to do, what might belong to another committee, etc. In reviewing the structure of the meeting, it became clear that the meeting should have an assistant clerk and the meeting this year approved this.

In an effort to sustain a sense of worship in our business meetings, adjustments were made to ensure that we would have adequate time to thoroughly consider important matters, including interrupting business with a potluck lunch, then continuing.

The Religious Education committee continues to nurture adults and children spiritually through our

*(Continued on page 7)*



(State of the Meeting continued from page 6)

First Day School programs. Our children's teachers give generously their time and love and guide well our young ones. In addition to the first day school for the children, the Wales Exchange group and the Youth Group have a large positive impact on our young ones and are helping to create Quakers for the future.

Our sense of community is enhanced by the committee work, by our newsletter, by the intergenerational and other activities such as secret friends, Friendly Eights, breakfasts, potlucks, work days, the lives and callings First Day programs, our work with the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), and the small groups like worship sharing, AFSC packing of clothes, Alternatives to Violence (AVP) work and the dream group. We also experience a sense of community as we struggle with meeting-wide issues.

A new issue this year was the budget in which there was a significant shortfall due to a decrease in the expected contributions. When Stewardship brought this to the Meeting's attention, there was good discussion on how we could economize and how we might increase the individual financial support of the meeting. In the end we gratefully received a large single donation as well as many other responses, which allowed us to balance the budget and then some.

The Meeting's outreach to the community took many forms, including the Fellowship and Outreach Committee sponsored coffeehouses and visitors' day, retreats and other programs offered by the Gathering Garden, Peace and Social Action's Wednesday open worship for peace, our summer month of caring for IHN families at the meeting house, our work with AVP in the prisons, the Preschool and their scholarships to their students who otherwise could not afford to come, our Historian who responds to many inquiries about Gwynedd and past members, and our Office Manager who gives our Meeting a friendly face and adeptly fields all sorts of questions from curious Quakers and other interested people.

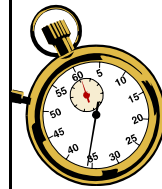
We participate in the Abington Quarter and PYM activities, as well as in assisting in their work. Our children attended the Junior and Middle School Friends Conference. Our adults and children went to Friends General Conference.

It is clear that Gwynedd Meeting is a vital, enthusiastic, and hardworking community. By continuing to accept God's help and listening to leadings, we can use our good energy to work even harder for justice and peace in the world. Lea Stabinski, clerk for the Meeting. 18 Jan 2004



## HISTORICAL MUSINGS

History notes from 2<sup>nd</sup> Month minutes



1804- The committee continued to pay another visit to Edward Roberts. They have not jointly had an opportunity with him. They now request an addition to their number. Nathan Cleaver and Hugh Foulke are added who are desired to visit him again and report to next Meeting.

1904- Care is taken to treat with offenders in the spirit and manner recommended in the Query endeavoring to reach a judgment in the authority of truth.

1954- The marriage of our members Mary Edna Zimmerman and Richard L. Ott on the 24<sup>th</sup> of Tenth month, 1953 and the birth of our members Julia and Claudia Bates, twin daughters of Brainerd and Joanne Bates on the 13<sup>th</sup> of First Month at Palma del Majorca, Spain, were reported.

Friends will mark World Day of Prayer at our Meetinghouse on the 5<sup>th</sup> of Third month, 1954 with the Church of the Messiah, Boehm's Church, and Bethlehem Baptist Church of Pennlyn.

Gwynedd Friends Meeting  
PO Box 142  
Gwynedd, PA 19436

*Address service requested*

## GATHERING GARDEN

- 2-13-2004 Group Spiritual Direction Meeting, 7.00 - 9:15 p.m.
- 2-24-2004 Dream Group, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- 2-28-2004 Explore your personality, with Debra Schroeder Thompson  
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



**Property Committee** is asking for help with energy conservation. Please remember to close all doors and windows and turn off the lights when you are finished in the building. Thank you