

Among Friends

A **PYM Women's Retreat** will be held at Burlington Meetinghouse Conference Center, April 12-14. There will be workshops on Peace Pilgrim, creative movement and contemplative dance, peacework in Columbia, Quaker women in the 60's, banner and sign making, and invoking goddess. Childcare, Sign Language Interpretation and Scholarships available. To register contact Eva Abbott at 610.524.8297.

Quaker Singles will meet Sunday, April 14, at 10:00 a.m. at Swarthmore Meeting. After attending Meeting for Worship, the group will hike through the Arboretum and Crum Creek. Lunch will be at a local deli. Contact Fred 610-565-0602 or Kathy 610-399-8784.

A **forum on faith and constitutional freedoms** will be held Sunday afternoon, April 21, from 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. at the Mother Bethel AME Church, 419 Richard Allen Avenue (6th & Lombard), Philadelphia. The featured speaker will be Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourners* magazine.

April 2002 Newsletter
Gwynedd Friends Meeting
P.O. Box 142
Gwynedd, PA 19436

Address Correction Requested

Deadline for the May Newsletter is April 14

Please sign the notes you submit so we can call if we have questions.

Thank you.

Whom to contact with newsletter items:

Sandy Snyder
(sfsnyder@erols.com) does the calendar

All other items may be given to

Beth Binford or sent to her

e-mail address:
oriental@erols.com.

The printing, distribution and mailing of the newsletter is under the care of Sandy Snyder, and proofreading by Eleanor Hiebert.



Gwynedd Friends Youth Group

March was an exciting month for Gwynedd Friends Youth Group. First we went bowling and then we decided that we needed more of a challenge. So, we went rock climbing at Philadelphia's Rock Gym in Oaks. Gwynedd definitely has some brave youths with great senses of humor. They climbed to quite some heights without looking back and then laughed whole heartedly as they dangled from ropes in mid air. My role in all of this was to, of course, merely observe.

We will now turn our focus to several spring service projects. We hope to adopt a piece of a rainforest. The children are planning to make and bake a myriad of items and then sell them in order to raise money to do this. Two other service projects in

the works are planting with the elderly and helping out at the Wissahickon Watershed.

Thank you, youth, as always for your great ideas and warm hearts. And thank you so much to the parents who came to our March meeting, for all your support and willingness to help plan.

Gwynedd Friends Youth Group welcomes all youths and their parents, 1st - 12th grade. We meet each third Sunday of the month.

Any questions contact Pauline Rosa Martir at cassandraanight@aol.com.

— *Pauline Rosa Martir*

Proposed Hilltop Discernment Process

The Discernment Subcommittee of the Hilltop Committee proposed the following process for Gwynedd Meeting to follow to discern God's will for the use of the Hilltop property.

Sunday, May 5, 2002 - 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Brainstorming session to identify all ideas and leadings. The brainstorming session will have an outside facilitator and will take the form of short presentations (2-5 minutes each) covering the following points:

- √ What is the proposed use?
- √ Whom does the proposed program or idea serve?
- √ How does the idea speak to Friends testimonies?

Sunday, June 2, 2002 - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Threshing session to take the ideas presented at the brainstorming session and sort through them to see if some are similar enough to be combined into the same project, and to see if some should be eliminated. This will be a time to work at sorting through the ideas, to (as the name suggests) thresh the ideas and separate the wheat from the chaff. We will have an outside facilitator.

You have an idea to suggest but are unable to be at the brainstorming session?

The Discernment subcommittee wants to make sure it has everyone's ideas for use of the Hilltop property. If you have an idea you would like included on the list, and you will not be able to attend the brainstorming session, send your idea to Connie Lezenby.

Be sure to include answers to the three points listed in column 1.

The Hilltop Discernment subcommittee will next meet on Wednesday, April 17, at the meetinghouse.

All are welcome.

The past in Gwynedd minutes

selected by Ginny Bergey

Fourth Month—1702: The Preparative Meetings of Merion, Newtown and North Wales brings an account that they have in some measure answered the trust reposed in them and have nothing to Lay before this meeting.

Fourth Month—1802: Love and Unity is we believe in a good measure maintained among us in the General. Back biting and evil reports discouraged as far as appears and when Differences arise and become known Endeavours are used to end them.

Fourth Month—1902: The report produced a month ago by the committee appointed to visit Daniel Cleaver has been further considered, and it is the feeling of this meeting to leave it another month.

Fourth Month - 1952 - The third query and relevant passages of the Book of Discipline were read. Regina Peasley spoke to the query. Attendance at meetings is reasonably satisfactory, in part because so many find meeting such a source of strength. There is some lack of punctuality which, however, may be excusable under all the circumstances. Friendliness is notable among attenders, whether members or not. Business is dispatched with due regard for our desire to be united rather than merely efficient.

The matter of the driveway was continued indefinitely in the care of the Property and Graveyard committee.

Does anyone know what this ongoing driveway matter is? Please contact Ginny Bergey, Historian, if you do.

The inspiration for HARP

(Helping the Arts Reach Peace)

Helene Huber, a drawingboard activist and co-founder of Helping the Arts Reach Peace, talks about her inspiration:

In February 1997 two articles in the Quaker Peacework pushed my buttons, and I thought I must write a piece of my mind to express my anger. As I began to wonder to whom to address my anger, a Voice advised me not to act out my violent reaction to business as usual of our political, military, industrial complex: not to waste my God-given talents in such a non-productive way.

I recognized this as the voice of Wisdom and listened. That night I had a dream about nuclear war and my responsibility to help prevent it. When I awoke that morning I knew that I had to use my talents to make art for PEACE and that is how Peace Missiles got started. Now I might add that God invests in us talents and expects us to increase that investment, to be fruitful, for by our fruits we worship God. Anger can be a great blessing; it can call forth energy which if we will ask God to lead us can be invested for the good of all. However we are led, it will be truly effective, bring us fulfillment and joy, as well as the PEACE which is not the opposite of war.

Art as an alternative to violence has been an immeasurable blessing in my life. I offer my story with a wish that it will help others to find an alternative to their violence.

Housing help needed

Word has it that our tenant at Hope Gardens, Vivien Williams, will receive a Housing Choice Voucher in one to two months. This means if she can find a landlord who will rent to her, the bulk of the rent will be paid by Montgomery County Housing Authority and the remainder by her.

After she receives the voucher she will have 60 days to find housing. Vivien needs a one-bedroom apartment, or even a large efficiency. She will make an excellent tenant, as she always pays her rent on time and is quiet and very respectful of her living space. She works at a steady job at Ft. Washington Estates, so something close by is desirable, but she does not have a very reliable car.

If Vivien cannot find an apartment through her Housing Choice Voucher, her time at Hope Gardens is up in October. This means she will need an affordable apartment at that time (or even before).

I would appreciate any help or leads you may be able to give to me to be able to help Vivien find permanent housing. Please be in touch with me at home 215-542-9310, or at work 215-628-2334.

— Carolyn Moon

The eighth query regarding peace was responded to by Gary Lapreziosa and considered by the Meeting.

Martha Wilcockson for Overseers read a letter of resignation from Philip Conver. The clerk will respond to Philip Conver by letter. Martha Wilcockson will contact Samuel Conver by letter as well. The Meeting agreed to release Philip Conver from membership.

Martha also presented the proposed changes to the Plan of Organization for the meeting's consideration. These changes will be brought back to next month's meeting for business.

Pat Dawe read a report from the Clearness Committee for the upcoming marriage of Jasa Porciello and Jon Petruschke. The marriage will occur in Maine. The Meeting approved that all plans proceed.

Ken Taylor presented information on the new Gwynedd Fiduciary Corporation. A suggestion was made to limit the terms of Trustees now while the plan of organization is being revised. The Gwynedd Fiduciary Corp. (or GRC) will have three members: Kenneth Taylor, Henry Beck and a third to be appointed by the Nominating Committee.

Clerk for the nominating Committee, Judy Flanigan, announced that the meeting's new clerk will begin in September. Lea Stabinski was approved by the meeting to be the next clerk. Marilyn Trueblood was approved to serve on the Friends Fiduciary Corporation board.

Joan Johnston reported on a new endeavor to give support to a kindergarten classroom at Taylor Elementary school in North Philadelphia. (See details on page 3.)

Joan also presented information from the AFSC's Campaign of

Meeting for Worship with a concern for Business

Third Month

Conscience regarding the U.S. relations with Iraq and asked the meeting if the campaign is one we are led to support. The AFSC, the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Pax Christi are involved in attempting to address the rebuilding of the Iraqi infrastructure following the Gulf War and the continuing United Nations sanctions. They are now trying to rebuild a water treatment plant outside Baghdad and intend to go ahead with or without the permission of the U.S. Government, which they are seeking. Jeanetta informed us that there will be an interest group on this matter at Yearly Meeting, 4th day, 10:00 a.m. There will also be a first-day school class given by Peter Lems, the AFSC coordinator, 4th month 7. There is a video that can be viewed for further information. The committee will bring this issue back to monthly meeting in 4th month.

The larger of the two new peace flags will be displayed outside on the front of the meetinghouse, and the smaller one in the lobby above the secretary's office door.

Neil Trueblood reported the sprinkler system will be checked in the next few weeks. Fans will be cleaned and light bulbs replaced at the same time. A new valve which has been sticking will be replaced in the boiler. The committee is looking into more storage space for the cottage and a shelter for cars. The carriage house roof was replaced.

Russell Bishop gave an update on the work of the Hilltop ad hoc committee. The new name suggested is "Avalon on Hilltop."

Appreciation was expressed for all who have contributed to improving the property. Margot West raised a concern that the interest from the Trustees loan of \$320,000 be included in the calculations for the amount of the fundraising. The committee will apply for property tax relief for the past year since it has not been rented, and a reduction in taxes for the property for the future. A potential tenant is being interviewed. This applicant wishes to rent the property for six months and his offer is for \$4,000 per month. It is also likely that we will have a follow-up tenant beginning in September. The Stewardship Committee will address state and federal tax issues concerning our rental property.

There are now two separate subcommittees, one for fundraising and one for discernment of use. Craig Trueblood presented an outline for the process of discernment and the ideas brought forward to date. **There will be a brainstorming session for the whole meeting on May 5 from 7:00-9:00 PM. and a threshing session June 2 also from 7:00 - 9:00 PM.** Recommendations from these sessions will then be brought to Meeting for Business for approval.

Editors note: *If you are unable to come to these sessions, and have an idea for use of the property, call Connie Lezenby. See page. 7*

Pegene McPhaden reported on the Quakerism 101 course. Cost is \$35 including text. See page 3. The session on Meeting for Business is open to all and will be held May 7. Meeting members and attenders are encouraged to attend this particular class free of charge. A potluck supper is possible, so members and attenders can stay for the later brainstorming session.

Yearly Meeting sessions are April 21-24 at Arch St. Mtghouse.

Meeting Bulletin Board Continued

A memorial service to be held for H. Craig Bell

A memorial service will be held for H. Craig Bell, M.D. on April 7, at 3:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse. Craig Bell died on February 26, 2002. He and his wife were members of Abington Meeting for 40 plus years. They transferred their membership to Gwynedd when they moved into Neshaminy Falls in 1987.

Knitting for Charity

Peg Haussmann is seeking donations of yarn for a Knitting for Charity class at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School next month. There will be a box in the hallway outside the community room to collect the yarn, or phone Peg for pick-up at 215-233-1176.

Jr. Friends Conference

Junior Friends Conference (JFC) will be held this year from June 16 through June 21. This five-day sleepover camp is for children presently in grades 2 through 6. This is a wonderful way for our children to become connected with other children in their First Day School class and to meet other children in the Abington Quarter. The kids really enjoy it; (complaints are rare)!

For additional information call Peg Haussmann at 215-233-1176 or e-mail haussmannp@aol.com.

What's happening at First Day School

Pre-K - Kindergarten: We have been reading Obadiah stories this winter. We learned that Obadiah and his family lived very differently than we do now. The children in this class like to sing with Carl, play games, and have a snack together.

1st - 3rd grade: We continue our study of famous Quakers with several stories and activities about Lucretia Mott. We learned that, even as a young girl in boarding school, Lucretia Mott stood up for what she believed was right, despite serious consequences for herself. We learned that she was brave in the face of danger and we played a game that tested our own bravery. Lucretia Mott strongly believed in that of God in everyone, including women and slaves, and was led to be a Quaker activist against slavery and for women's rights. We also shared the story of Lucretia Mott preaching to the young black soldiers who trained near her home in present day Cheltenham, PA. She believed that slavery was wrong, but fighting a war was not the answer. Still, she loved those soldiers who went off to fight and, when they marched past her house to go to battle, Lucretia Mott handed each of them a gingerbread from her cake-box. We made gingerbread to help us remember that story of Lucretia Mott's love and compassion for others.

4th - 5th grade: This class made a mobile showing what Quakerism is about, people can view it in the classroom across from the bulletin board. The Valentine place mats that we used at the Intergenerational Breakfast were one of our projects. We are reading stories about Obadiah, who provided sanctuary for people fleeing from their home countries.

Middle Schoolers: We have created 18 "Guidelines to Live By," some of which are: treat others as you would like to be treated, try your hardest, be yourself, smile and go for your dreams. Also, we've considered "Things that Interfere with Following our Guidelines (15)." A few are: anger, greed, insecurity, peer pressure and physical and mental disabilities. Our discussions have also included "What We Need to Feel Cared For" (13 items) and "What We Can Do by Taking on a CHALLENGE: The Drought in SE Pennsylvania" (14 items). Anyone wishing a copy of our lists can contact Laura Taylor or any of the Middle School teachers.

High Schoolers: We raised money for the Heifer Project (\$136) and for the Wales Youth Exchange (\$400) by making and selling hoagies. We cooked for the Intergenerational Breakfast. Ron talked about Hinduism and a friend of Caroline came and spoke to us about Judaism.

**Broadside
Electric
Returns to
the
Coffeehouse**



Mark your calendars and join us on **Saturday, April 6**, when Gwynedd Friends Coffeehouse will present Broadside Electric. This talented group of musicians packed the coffeehouse last year and entertained all with a wonderful mix of world and folk music. Doors open at 7:30 pm, music begins at 8:00 p.m. The donation is \$3. Half will go to an as yet unnamed but worthy Quaker charity.

HELP NEEDED!!!

Fellowship and Outreach is looking for people to assist with the Coffeehouse as part of a regular subcommittee. Participants can be as active as they wish both with set-up and planning input. To volunteer call Betsy Lowe 215-256-4762.

Quakerism 101

Quakerism 101 classes will be held on the following Sundays from 4:00-6:00 p.m.:

- April 7 Seekers and Finders
- April 14 The Light Within
- April 21 Quaker Universalism
- April 28 Worship and Ministry
- May 5 Getting Down to Business (**Open**)
- May 12 Living the Light: Quaker Witness

Tom Swain, who will be teaching the course, is opening the class "Getting Down to Business," on May 5, to the whole Meeting. Everyone is welcome.

**Meeting
Bulletin
Board**

**To benefit the
Wales Exchange**

The Welsh Youth Exchange would appreciate any **Genuardi tapes you may have**. They may be left in the box in the Adult First Day School room.

This year's **Rummage Sale** to benefit the Youth Exchange will be held on **May 11**. You may leave items upstairs in the meetinghouse.



**Kindergarten
needs books
and
bookbags**

A group of parents of Gwynedd Preschool children have begun a project to support our member Katharine Penniman's work with the kindergarten class at Taylor Elementary School in North Philadelphia. Katharine is an intern teacher in the class. The class has a special need for books for that age group, and bookbags.

If you have these to donate you may leave them in the box outside the kitchen door. If you have further questions, you may call Marcia Wise.

**Preschool and
Kindergarten news**

April brings spring projects and spring fever! You can really feel the activity level rise throughout the school during the warmer weather. The 4-year-old class celebrated with a Beach Party in March, and they are preparing for their Art Show in May.

During the spring, all of our classes will plan on helping the children prepare for next year. Our 3's will visit the "big" room so they can orient themselves for the transition next year. Our future Kindergarteners will spend a few hours in the Kindergarten with the current students, which is a thrill for the hosts as well as the visitors.

Please mark your calendars for our first "Night of Music" on May 11 at 8:00 p.m. Rob and Marie Russell's daughter, Elizabeth Russell Oliver, and her husband, Tim, will provide a night of opera and Broadway tunes. This "coffee house" format is replacing our annual Chinese Dinner, which was our scholarship fundraiser. We will be asking for a freewill donation to benefit our scholarship fund. Since 1994, we have provided nearly \$19,000 in scholarship aid for families seeking a Quaker school experience. We welcome any and all of you to this delightful evening of music. Bring your friends!

Adult First Day School

April 7 - Peter Lems of AFSC, speaking on the Campaign of Conscience

April 14 - Secret Friends, HARP

April 21 - Meeting for Business

April 28 - James Fine of AFSC, speaking on Friends in the Middle East.

APRIL 2002

Monday	4/1/02	9:30a - 11:00a: 7:30p - 9:30p:	Worship sharing @ Kay Rowe's Home Overseers meet
Thursday	4/4/02	10:00a - 10:30a:	Beaumont Meeting for Worship
Saturday	4/6/02	7:30p - 10:00p:	Coffeehouse - "Broadside Electric"

SUNDAY		9:00a - 9:30a:	Early Meeting
4/7/02		9:45a - 11:00a:	AFDS- Peter Lems of AFSC speaking on the "Campaign of Consciousness"
		9:45a - 11:00a:	HARP
		11:15a - 12:15p:	Worship
		3:00p - 4:00p:	Craig Bell Memorial Service
		4:00p - 6:00p:	Quakerism 101 led by Thomas Swain - Seekers and Finders
		7:00p - 8:30p:	Dream Group meets
Monday	4/8/02	7:30p - 9:30p:	Peace & Social Action
Tuesday	4/9/02	7:30p - 9:30p:	Preschool Committee meets
Thursday	4/11/02	10:00a - 10:30a: 10:00a - 2:00p:	Beaumont Meeting for Worship Sort & Pack @AFSC

SUNDAY		9:00a - 11:00a:	Stewardship Meeting
4/14/02		9:00a - 9:30a:	Early Meeting
		9:45a - 11:00a:	AFDS-Secret Friends - HARP
		11:15a - 12:15p:	Worship
		4:00p - 6:00p:	Quakerism 101-The Light Within
		7:00p - 8:30p:	Dream Group meets
Monday	4/15/02	9:30a - 11:00a:	Worship sharing @ Kay Rowe's Home
Thursday	4/18/02	10:00a - 10:30a:	Beaumont Meeting for Worship

SUNDAY		8:30a - 9:00a:	Early Worship
4/21/02		9:00a - 11:00a:	Meeting for Business
		11:00a - 12:00p:	Youth Group meets
		11:15a - 12:15p:	Worship
		4:00p - 6:00p:	Quakerism 101-Quaker Universalism
		7:00p - 8:30p:	Dream Group meets
Monday	4/22/02	7:30p - 9:30p:	Worship & Ministry
Tuesday	4/23/02	7:30p - 9:30p:	Property Committee
Thursday	4/25/02	10:00a - 2:00p: 10:00a - 10:30a:	AFSC Packing Beaumont Meeting for Worship
Friday	4/26/02	10:00a - 2:00p:	Sort & Pack at AFSC

SUNDAY		9:00a - 9:30a:	Early Worship
4/28/02		9:00a - 9:30a:	Early Meeting
		9:45a - 11:00a:	AFDS-James Fine of AFSC speaking on Friends in the Middle East
		11:15a - 12:15p:	Worship
		4:00p - 6:00p:	Quakerism 101-Worship & Ministry
		7:00p - 8:30p:	Dream Group meets
Monday	4/29/02	9:30a - 11:00a:	Worship sharing @ Kay Rowe's Home
Thursday	5/2/02	10:00a - 10:30a:	Beaumont Meeting for Worship
Saturday	5/6/02	7:30p - 10:00p:	Coffeehouse - "folk singer Christopher Wasteful"

NEWSLETTER

of
Gwynedd Monthly Meeting of Friends



Apr. 2002 Connie Lezenby, Clerk
8 Haycroft, Spring House, PA 19477

Meeting for worship: 11:15 AM First Day School 9:45 AM
Foulkeways - Thurs. 10:00 AM September through May

S*i. Francis came to preach. With smiles he met the friendless, fed the poor, freed a trapped bird, led home a child. Although he spoke no word, His text, God's love, the town did not forget.*

—Elizabeth Patton Moss



Hats off to the Hilltop volunteers

They've scrubbed, scraped, plastered, painted, repaired, replaced, dusted, dug up and spruced up, to get Hilltop ready for rental. They've been there weekdays and weekends. Thanks to Jan Henderson who led the effort with supplies and lists of what had to be done and where; and thanks to all those who tackled the major tasks including such inglorious jobs as cleaning the stove and clearing out the basement.

All applaud Barb Schwartzenbach for her long hours cleaning and painting the kitchen. She had good help and if you had seen the condition of the stove before and then after.

Neil Trueblood kept tabs on the whole operation: directed the bathroom renovation and helped Arnold Trueblood replace a fireplace hearth, rebuild entrance steps, clear debris and create a parking area.

The yard and inside the house look beautiful! Now the new tenants can move in.



Query for April

#9. Ministry of Outreach

Outreach

What are we doing as a Meeting to communicate our presence and principles to the community around us? Does our Meeting's ministry of outreach lead Friends to share their spiritual experiences with others?

What are we doing to invite persons not in membership to attend our meetings for worship and to encourage their continued attendance? How does the Meeting welcome visitors? Are we sensitive to the needs and hesitations of each visitor?

Are we tender to the needs of isolated Friends and Meetings, and to nearby Meetings seeking support?

How do I ground myself in the understandings of my faith? Am I clear about my beliefs? How do I prepare myself to share my faith and beliefs with others?

Does my manner of life as a Friend attract others to our religious society? Do I seize opportunities to tell others about the Religious Society of Friends and invite them to worship with us?

Is my manner with visitors and attenders to our Meeting one of welcome?

Collaboration

In what ways does our Meeting respond to opportunities to join with other faiths in worship, in social action, and in spiritual dialogue?

How does our Meeting encourage its members to seek opportunities to meet and work with Friends world wide?

What opportunities have I taken to know people from different religious and cultural backgrounds, to worship with them, and to work with them on common concerns?