

# Gwynedd Monthly Meeting of Friends Newsletter

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



**April, 2004**

## Vanessa Julye at Gwynedd

On April 4, 2004, Vanessa Julye of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting will speak on "The Historical Relationship Between Friends of European Descent and African American Friends and Non-Friends" at FDS.

Vanessa has been called to a ministry under the care of Central Philadelphia MM which includes helping "Friends understand the legacy of pain we have all inherited from our ancestors and

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### **Highlights:**

*Meeting for Business, p.2*

*Coffee House, p. 4*

*Is the Draft Coming Back? , p.7*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/ FDS SCHEDULE

- 4/4 Vanessa Julye: Historical aspects of Racism in the Religious Soc. of Friends
- 4/11 Vicky Poorman Friends World Committee for Consultation trip to New Zealand
- 4/18 Meeting for Business No Adult FDS
- 4/25 Worship & Ministry
  
- 5/2 Quarterly Meeting at Abington No Adult FDS

## Query on Peace

How does our Meeting act to advance peace, to oppose violence, and to support the constructive use of authority in our community, our nation, and the world?

What are we doing as a Meeting:

—to free our nation from militarization, so evident in our society and in its economy?

—to understand the causes of war and violence and to work for the development of the attitudes and institutions of peace?

—to recognize and correct the causes of violence within our communities, and to work toward overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?

—to increase the understanding and use of nonviolent approaches for the resolution of conflicts?

*Do I live in the power of that Life and Spirit that takes away the occasion of all wars?*

*How do I maintain Friends' testimony that military training and all participation in war and its preparation are inconsistent with the teaching and the Spirit of Christ?*

*Do I work for the establishment of alternative ways of settling disputes? Am I aware that to build a world community requires that we all face our differences honestly, openly, and in trust?*

*Do I treat conflict as an opportunity for growth, and address it with careful attention? Do I seek to recognize and respect the Divine in those with whom I have a basic disagreement? Do I look for ways to reaffirm in action and attitude my love for the one with who I am in conflict?*

*Faith and Practice, p. 211-212*

## **Gwynedd Monthly Meeting Minutes** *(March 21, 2004 Condensed Draft)*

**Clerk:** Mickey Edgerton reported briefly on her experience of being an elder for a couple teaching in a class in Tennessee. A minute from Nashville Friends Meeting is included with these minutes as are Mickey's notes on her experience. Mickey served as a companion to Michael Wajda and Alison Levie as they led a retreat. She also traveled with the Meeting to Fort Campbell. The members of Nashville Friends Meeting have frequently ministered to military families.

Rol and Jan Henderson carried a travel minute from Gwynedd to Tokyo Friends Meeting. They had been there 47 years ago and reconnected with people they had known since 1957. The minute from Tokyo Meeting is bound with these minutes.

Mickey Edgerton and Martin Trueblood volunteered to report to monthly meeting, their experiences of the upcoming yearly meeting.

Our newsletter editor will be leaving us. Trish Schoor has accepted a job in Lancaster beginning next month. We need to try to find a new editor as soon as we can. Interested people can talk with Trish (trishschoor@comcast.net) and/or Beth Binford (oriental@erols.com), a former editor, to see what is involved. Please let Lea Stabinski (spiritlea@aol.com) know if you are, or if you know someone else, who might be interested in volunteering to be the editor.

**Recorder:** June Hallowell reported three members of the Meeting died this month: Mary Jan Bush who died on 2-22-04, Elizabeth Passmore Willis who died 2-27-04 (memorial service held Sun 3-7-04), and Gwen Ellen Evans Nicodemus who died on 3-13-04 (memorial service held Sat, 3-20-04). John Sudofsky, husband of member Sandy, also died this past month.

**Overseers:** Clerk Marty Wilcockson reported that Gwynedd Overseers committee wants to recommend to PYM that the name

for Overseers committee be changed to "Care and Counsel Committee". The term "Overseers" is deemed negative by many, as it has an association with American slavery and is a hierarchical term. PYM has recognized the need for change and is surveying its meetings for recommendations. The Meeting approved to recommend that "Care and Counsel" be submitted to PYM as the official replacement for the term Overseers.

The welcoming committee for Stacy Wyckoff and her children Ceasar and Thuy were

Pegene McPhaden, Deborah Faulkner, Peter Vail and his children. They met for lunch at the Wyckoffs where they were duly welcomed. Deborah Faulkner gave the report.

John Sprouse wrote to request release from membership as he has been attending a local Methodist church and the Meeting approved.

**Nominating Committee:** Al Hubbs reported that Martin Trueblood is recommended to be an Abington Quarter Trustee. The Meeting approved. He will join Henry Beck who is already a trustee.

**Fellowship and Outreach:** Carl Baron read the annual report, which includes a report on the season's Coffeehouse, and a proposed Show and Tell and next year's Visitor's Day. The committee requested of Nominating that additional members be appointed. It was requested that the new Subcommittee for Communications not be under Fellowship and Outreach.

**Property:** Neil Trueblood reported that the parking lot has been raked, alarm system training will be held in April. There is a workday set for April 24<sup>th</sup>. The porch ceiling is cracked near the Community Room Foyer east entrance door and ways are being investigated to fix this.

**Hilltop:** The question of our payment of residual county taxes needs to be resolved with the County Assessment Office and Neil Trueblood will be meeting with them this coming week.

Neil reported that Trustees are considering an

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*(Meeting for Business continued from page 2)*

agreement for the rental of Hilltop to either a group of men or a family for the monthly rental of \$ 2,200 – 2,300 per month (still negotiating) for the coming year commencing May 1, 2004. The concept for renting as of May 1, 2004 for a period of 15 months with an option to renew was approved by the meeting so that the committee might continue with a rental agreement. The rental will be finalized with the consideration that long term the Meeting might wish to rent to the Academy of Community Music and that during the occupancy certain repairs might need to be made to the Hilltop house.

Neil reported on the status of the meeting with the State Labor and Industry Office in order to process Gwynedd's variance request. We are finalizing plan adjustments for the Avalon House (Hilltop) to submit with requests for waivers from some of the state requirements due to historical and aesthetic concerns. We expect the plans and the requests will be in order to visit Harrisburg in April for a review and full application to the Board that reviews and decides on such matters. The hearing may take 6 – 8 weeks to schedule. This means we would not be able to make such improvements to meet the Board's decision if approved until the summer time. As such the possibility of the Academy of Community Music could not proceed for at least 6 months. They are in a holding pattern and we will more than likely be able to reconsider their involvement next year. ACM has been kept informed and they continue to hope that Gwynedd may be in their future if it all can be worked out over time.

Neil is working with Bi-county fuels to get replacement radiators that fit the house. The house will be heated and ready and ready May 1 for any new occupants. An insurance claim may be filed upon completion of the work if necessary. Much work has been done at a relatively small expense to date.

Appreciation was voiced for all the work that this Neil and this committee has done.

**Expanding Educational Opportunities at Gwynedd (EEOG):** Stacy Wyckoff reported

Laura Roberts has joined the EEOG Committee, which is comprised of Laura Taylor, Roger Sternfeld and Doug Faulkner, and Stacy Wyckoff. The committee is crafting a detailed purpose statement for presentation at next month's Meeting for Business. They are considering a Middle School enrichment program for underserved youth in the region. There is a possibility of working with ACM in this program

**Fundraising:** Al Hubbs reported that a project statement has been edited and is now in place. Financial goals have been set and fund raising teams are being created. Pru Churchill will be training these groups on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Rol Henderson, Doug Twedale, and Al Hubbs will be calling members to ask them to serve on the fund raising teams. Visitation will begin shortly after the training sessions in April.

**Peace and Social Action:** Joan Johnston reported that on behalf of PYM's Conscience, Militarism and War Tax Working Group's invitation to all meetings, P & SA is sponsoring a bake sale to be held at the April 4th Coffeehouse. The invitation is meant to educate our community about Quaker stands of conscience. Any profits will go to the Fund for Sufferings. P & SA's baked goods will replace the usual coffeehouse fare, and any contributions are gladly welcome. Please contact JJ joan-solh@msn.com if willing to bake a pie, (preferred - to call attention to the pie charts in the literature that will be available), cake or larger sized cookies.

**Summer Peace Camp:** Jan Henderson reported that brochures advertising the Peace camp are now available. Information on the Peace Camp has been outlined in the last Newsletter. Contributions can be made at Gwynedd Peace-Camp@yahoo.com .

**Religious Education:** Pegene McPhaden reported on the upcoming programs, which are delineated in the Newsletter. On April 4<sup>th</sup> the First Day Program will feature

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**SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**Car Saturday**  
**May 15, 9:00-2:00**

**Gwynedd Rummage  
Plant & Bake Sale  
Wash**

Fundraiser to benefit the Gwynedd Wales  
Youth Exchange

Begin to set aside items to contribute to this event! Please save GENTLY USED items for the Rummage Sale (bring *clean* clothes/toys as well as flea market items). BEFORE bringing an item, ask yourself "Would I buy this?" If you would, bring it to the upstairs rear balcony the week of May 9th. The meeting will be open Sun. May 9th all day, Mon-Thurs. 9-3, Fri. May 13 all day, for delivery of items.

A pre-order form for the Plant Sale will be coming soon via e-mail. Please take note of when the order form MUST BE IN for the plants to be delivered on May 14 for pick-up!

Coffee and baked goods will be available during the sale. Individually wrapped treats as well as whole pies, bread loaves, and cakes will be for sale.



Does anyone have a shore home that they are willing to let the Wales/US youth with chaperones use for one day (not overnight) at the beach?

Please contact:

Laura Taylor at  
llt901@comcast.net if  
this is possible.



**Gwynedd Friends Coffeehouse**

April 3, 2004

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

The next Gwynedd Friends Coffeehouse will be on Saturday, April 3, 2004 at 8PM. The Bakshi Family & Friend will present "Classical Music with a Few Surprises". The Bakshi's, Benji, Neil, and Sue, together with David Himmer, will serenade you with a collage of old and new Classical music.

Some of the compositions featured will be "Cherry Blossoms" by Keiko Abe for marimba, a movement of the Cello Sonata and "The Swan" by Saint-Saens, "Legend" by Wieniawski for violin, and various other solos, duos, and trios for piano, violin, cello, and marimba. Other compositions by Bach, Kreisler, Faure, Shostakovich, and a couple of fiddle pieces and more popular dance music will also be heard and enjoyed - something for everybody from serious classical to light enjoyment.

## Fellowship and Outreach Annual Report

Presented at Gwynedd Friends Monthly Meeting for Business First Day, March 21, 2004.

1. Present state of the Coffeehouse: Through the March Coffeehouse (four performances), we have a net income of \$210 (this amount will be lowered by the amount the Coffeehouse contributes toward the Mozambique charity). Contributions so far this season, have been made to: Christmas Fund at Hope Gardens (\$100), Friends Transition Support Services (\$40) and Mozambique orphan children to attend school (\$136 + Coffeehouse contribution).
2. Future of the Coffeehouse: We have not yet decided as whether we will have fewer Coffeehouses next season or lay down the Coffeehouse or continue with the seven as we have been doing.
3. We met with a Committee for Clearness and made our requests for more members (especially if we are to continue the Coffeehouse). It was also decided that the Communications Subcommittee would not be under Fellowship and Outreach.
4. We are planning for next fall, a Show and Tell evening event, in which members and attenders of Gwynedd will come and share their hobbies, interests and talents with all at the Meeting.
5. Visitor's Day: The Religious Education Committee has an idea for Visitor's Day October, 2004, but as of yet has not presented it to Fellowship and Outreach.

Report submitted by Carl Baron



## PYM Annual Meeting Still Accepting Registrations for Programs

Children. Adults, Middle School and High School Young Friends are welcome to participate. We have lots of wonderful programs and teachers ready to share spiritual and community experiences with you and your families.

Note that there is a ZYDECO DANCE SATURDAY NIGHT, as well as a movie, a jam session and a worship.

There will also be a children's FAMILY ROOM this year so that those who would like quiet respite during meals or other times can go to

Room 4 at Arch Street and Linda Cooper and others will be there to welcome you with your children.

We also have news that the new caterers this year will offer vegetarian and vegan entrees at meals, for those who prefer them.

Finally, please bring your MEETING BANNER (If you have made one) to the registration desk when you arrive, and we will direct you to the folks who can hang it for you in the dining room.

Please let your Religious Education Committee have this information so that they can invite new families, especially!

We look forward to seeing you at Annual Sessions this year. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding Annual Sessions registration or children's programs.

*Helen Fields, Annual Sessions Registrar*  
215 241 7008

### **Note from the Editor:**

Please email articles for the April Newsletter to [trishschoor@comcast.net](mailto:trishschoor@comcast.net) by April 20, 2004.

## Summary of HS FDS series on Conscientious Objection in 2003-4

This is a brief summary of a series of High School First Day School sessions regarding Conscientious Objection (CO) that I and the high school teachers carried out between November 2003 and January 2004. Stacy Wyckoff, Coordinator of Children's First Day School, asked me in the summer of 2003 to organize and lead this effort as a precursor to a longer series to be implemented in future years.

In planning, I started with a series of six sessions designed by Curt Torell and Alice Carlton of Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting, which I adapted and condensed to fit the circumstances of our Meeting. My plan comprised three sessions: Thinking About CO, Mock Draft Board (adults questioning teens), and Mock Draft Board (teens questioning adults).

It turned out that we actually held five sessions, with the first and the final one going roughly according to my original plan. In the first session, Thinking About CO, we considered and discussed the following questions and assertions: (1) What is CO? (2) Why is thinking about CO important? (3) Wars, however terrible, are sometimes necessary (agree/disagree and why); (4) What are the benefits of war and who reaps them? (5) What are the costs of war and who bears them? (6) What can be done to relieve the potential for future wars?

For the second session, I had invited Eleanor and Ken Hiebert and Roger Buchanan to serve as a mock "Draft Board" to question teens who volunteered to be CO applicants. However, the teens weren't ready to participate in this activity. Instead of the mock Draft Board, we held a discussion among the teachers, teens, and guests, about such things as the Hieberts' CO experience, the effects of war, and "Just war" theory.

I joined the class for two additional sessions in January at the invitation of lead teacher

Joanne Penn, during which we talked about Friends' Peace Testimony, Selective Service laws, and draft boards, and prepared questions for the mock Draft Board session with the adults.

During the final session on January 25, Martin Trueblood and Ken Hiebert took turns volunteering as "CO applicants" who were questioned by "Draft Boards" made up of the Young Friends. After each Draft Board sitting, we asked the participants for their impressions and then asked the group at-large for their reactions. This session vividly illustrated some of the difficulties of defending one's beliefs, as well as the difficulty for the teens of taking an adversarial role, even a contrived one, with adults in the Meeting.

In retrospect, we shouldn't have assumed that the teens would be prepared to deal with such a specific and personal a matter as CO right away, or to appreciate the source and the implications of a CO stand. Moreover, I found many of the misconceptions about war's motivations and effects that exist in the larger culture to be held by some Young Friends, too.

Joanne has suggested that in the future, we should consider weaving CO-related topics throughout the FDS curriculum beginning at least in junior high, if not earlier. This could then culminate in a series for the high school class along the lines of what we attempted in this "trial run." I am ready to work with the FDS teachers to design and implement such activities.

I thank Joanne and the other teachers (Jeremy Ramont and Amanda Vail), as well as our volunteer adults, for their contributions to this useful and instructive project.

-Submitted by Gary Lapreziosa

## IS THE DRAFT COMING BACK? By Gary Lapreziosa

Many people are beginning to wonder whether the United States will soon see a resumption of the military draft. Some believe that this question hinges on the outcome of the 2004 Presidential election, or on the success the U.S. has in "handing over" political power in Iraq to Iraqis themselves. I will summarize some recent developments that pertain to this question and inject some of my own opinions.

General situation: Looking at the U.S. military's situation, it's hard to avoid noticing the potential 'manpower' problems. The numbers of countries in which the U.S. has permanent bases, as well as those in which its troops are active in some form of combat or policing, are still increasing. It is rare for a military commitment, once troops are on the ground, to ever end, or even to be substantially reduced. This might be especially true in the age of "the war on terror." Both state National Guard and Army Reserve units are heavily represented among the occupying army in Iraq, and the military intends to continue deploying those kinds of units overseas. Furthermore, military units that have been "rotated home" from the combat in Iraq are now being told they will return there.

There is a "stop loss" order that prevents certain members from leaving the military service, even when their enlistment term is over. Although the military insists that its retention and recruitment goals are still being met, the effect of long and repeated deployments overseas, as well as growing numbers of killed and permanently wounded troops, may have a delayed effect on those trends. Polls and interviews conducted with combat troops in Iraq and with their families suggest that there is widespread dissatisfaction or disillusionment with the military.

Few U.S. leaders seem willing to discuss the possibility of a resumed draft to remedy this situation, except to deny that one is being considered. More candid officials who speak off the record and other experts admit the possible need for conscription.

Conventional wisdom says that if we find Mr. Bush still in the Oval Office in January 2005, resumption of the draft won't be far behind. The reasoning is that as a 'lame duck' President, he won't have to worry about damaging his prospects for another term.

It's true that the issue is politically perilous, and we shouldn't expect any suggestion of a draft from a candidate running in a close race this year. However, I think it's mistaken to believe that a Kerry presidency would be any less belligerent than the Bush Administration has been. Kerry's own words strongly suggest otherwise: in fact, he has criticized Bush for having "*done too little*" in the "war on terror." And he has called for adding 40,000 more active-duty Army troops. In any case, both are reading from the same script when it comes to overall military goals of U.S. policy

I believe that the domestic and geopolitical factors driving the expansion of America's overseas military activity supercede the question of who ends up as President. It would require extraordinary courage for a President to attempt to buck these trends. Of course, anything is possible, and either Bush or Kerry might be that extraordinary person; the point is that so far, both of them have shown quite the opposite inclinations.

### Some specific developments

Universal National Service Act: In January 2003, that is, more than a year ago, identical Congressional bills calling for "Universal National Service" were introduced by Democrats: House Bill 163 and Senate Bill 89, sponsored by Rep. Rangel and Sen. Hollings, respectively. The Senate version has no co-sponsors and the House version has been signed-on to by 13 Representatives. Both bills were referred to Committee and apparently there has been no other action taken, nor is there likely to be on such a divisive issue during an election year.

Nevertheless, it's important to be aware of the

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*(Is the Draft Coming Back? continued from page 7)*

provisions of these bills, in order to understand some of the thinking and possible groundwork that's being laid in anticipation of the new Presidential term and the next legislative session. The legislation calls for mandatory two-year national service for all residents between the ages of 18 and 26, "in furtherance of the national defense and homeland security, and for other purposes." The first priority is for military service; in other words, the military gets 'first dibs' on the pool of conscripts, until their personnel needs are met.

There are several items of note in this legislation. First, it applies to both men and women. Second, there is no college exemption. And third, provisions for conscientious objection (CO) are weakened, in the sense that it guarantees only *noncombatant military service* for those classified as COs, with transfer to nonmilitary national service existing as an option only "at the discretion of the President."



To be sure, this legislation has not been publicly embraced by a significant number of lawmakers. It simply represents one possible scenario for a draft.

**Selective service revival:** In late 2003, alert Selective Service System (SSS)-watchers noted two worrying developments: for one, the agency had begun a low-key recruiting campaign to fill its vacant slots for Draft Board and Appeals Board members. It is estimated that approximately 16% of those positions are currently unfilled. Noting that its citizen Board volunteers "play an important community role closely associated with our Nation's defense," the SSS recruiting ad notes that "if a military draft becomes necessary," the Boards will decide which young men (!) submitting a claim for deferment (such as CO) will receive postponement or exemption from military service.

The other development is that SSS was allocated \$28 million in its fiscal year 2004 budget to prepare for a military draft that could begin

*(Meeting for Business continued from page 3)*

Vanessa Julye of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. She will speak on The Historical Relationship between Friends of European Descent, Friends of African Descent and Non-Friends". See the calendar for programs later in the month.

**Preschool:** Susan Lockwood reported on the Preschool potluck scholarship dinner held on Thursday March 18<sup>th</sup>. \$1300 was raised for scholarships and everyone's help and support is most appreciated. All had a good time.

**PYM Interim Meeting:** Martin Trueblood reported that Yearly meeting is encouraging Friends to attend Yearly Meeting. This might be the last year that it is free. There is a Thursday afternoon meeting on the budget, and this is particularly important, as monies have been so tight. Workshops are held all day Thursday and there is a plenary session on Thursday evening where members of Gwynedd will be speaking.

**Announcements:** 1.) An Auction will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup>, which will benefit Quaker children in Friends Schools. Contact Beth Binford ([oriental@erols.com](mailto:oriental@erols.com)) if you have fine items, services, vacation opportunities, dinners, etc you can provide for the auction.

2.) Marie Crawford spoke of her intention to set-up a non-profit organization to fund education, by offering items usually used in homes such as soap, coffee, etc. Profits would fund tuition reduction at individual schools, Friends Children in Friends' Schools scholarship fund, and Abington Quarter to support building a school in Afghanistan. Request was made for legal and accounting help to set up the non-profit organization. The suggestion was made that this should be under the care of one of Gwynedd's standing committees. A clearness committee will be set up by Overseers to help Marie in her efforts. It was suggested that it may not have to be a separate non-profit entity if it is under the care of the meeting.

*(Is the Draft Coming Back? continued from page 8)*

as early as June 15, 2005. In return for this funding allotment, SSS is required to report to the President by March 31, 2005 that it is ready for a reactivation of the draft.

It has been more than 30 years since the U.S. has had military conscription. The Pentagon adamantly prefers to have an all-volunteer military force, and the civilian population largely agrees with them. A renewal of the draft seems like an extremely hard sell now; all the same, lately we have seen many developments that few thought possible even as recently as several years ago.\*

*I thank Joanne and the other teachers (Jeremy Ramont and Amanda Vail), our volunteer adults, and the Young Friends themselves for their contributions to this useful and instructive project.—Gary Lapreziosa*

*(Vanessa Julye continued from page 1)*

how it impacts us today." In addition to her traveling ministry, Vanessa also is involved in sharing what she has learned by participating in FWCC's recent Triennial meeting in New Zealand, speaking at local Quaker schools, presenting workshops at FGC and Pendle Hill and co-authoring a book with Donna McDaniel entitled "Fit For Freedom, Not For Friendship" to be published by Quaker Press of FGC. her goal is to make the Religious Society of Friends more welcoming to Friends of Color.

For some background information about Vanessa's life's journey, read her article in the October 2003 Friends Journal. We hope you can come share in her ministry and come away with something of value for your life.

## HISTORICAL MUSINGS

History notes  
from 4th Month minutes

1804-The women friends brought in a Certificate they prepared for Lydia Evans to Robeson Monthly Meeting which being read and approved was signed.

1904- The committee appointed to visit Jane Thomas Wright report they had a satisfactory opportunity with her, realizing the sincerity of her request to be associated with her husband in Religious fellowship. She being more and more impressed with our testimony to silent waiting since mingling with us and acquainting herself with our Discipline and its principles.

1954-A report was given of plans for relocating the State highway in front of the Meeting. Trustees were asked to make arrangements for transferring the Post Office to the opposite side of the street without cost to the Meeting.



## Help send our children to Friends schools

The Friends Children in Friends Schools Committee is planning a dinner and auction on Saturday night, April 24, from 6:00 - 9:30 P.M. to raise scholarship money for our young people in Friends schools.

If you would like to donate an item for the auction--special pieces of value, services, or time at a vacation home--please call a committee member: Scott Penniman, Mitch Alden, Peter Vail, Eric Ott, Stacy Wyckoff, Marie Crawford, Amanda or Garret Vail, Gary Lapreziosa or Beth Binford.

The dinner and auction are open to our Gwynedd community. Neighbors, friends and family are welcome.

Gwynedd Friends Meeting  
PO Box 142  
Gwynedd, PA 19436

*Address service requested*

**SPRING WORK DAY NEEDS YOU !  
SATURDAY, APRIL 24 8AM TO 12 NOON**

**Come and help clean-up, fix-up, paint and  
weatherproof, inside and outside at Gwynedd Meeting  
and at Hilltop. There will be refreshments  
and time to work with and get to  
know others of all ages from the Meeting and  
Preschool.**

It's Spring! It's time to look and feel good!  
We can work together for the benefit of all!

Many thanks, from the Property Committee.