

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting of Friends

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

A u g u s t 2 0 0 3



2003-2004 First Day School kick off

The new First Day School year starts on September 7 with a breakfast beginning at 9:30. After breakfast, the children will be divided into their classes and have the chance to see their classroom and meet their teachers. Parents are encouraged to join their children as the teachers will be discussing plans for the upcoming year.

Adhoc committee on Meeting property use needs volunteers

Janet Henderson has volunteered to convene the first meeting of the adhoc committee to provide guidance to the meeting on the Quaker and non-Quaker use of the Meeting Property. Pat Dawe and Doug Faulkner are the other volunteers to date, and others are encouraged to speak to Jan about participating.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Every day 1,200-blood donations are needed in the Delaware Valley. Please give blood at the Red Cross Blood Drive at the meeting on September 20 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the community room. To give blood, you must weigh at least 110 pounds, be more than 17 years of age, and have 56 days from the last time you donated blood. Bring a friend with you.

September Adult First Day School events

September 7: Overseers Breakfast 9:30 a.m.

September 14: Rob Fullman: "What Abington Quarter has to offer regional meetings."

September 21: Meeting for Business

September 28: Priscilla Adams and Thomas Trantino: "What Quakers do to help prisoners as they reintegrate back in society".

Regional Director of the AFSC to speak at Byberry Meeting

Byberry Meeting will be hosting Mark Lancaster, Regional Director of the American Friends Service Committee, on Sunday September 14 at 9:30 am. Mark has agreed to join us to discuss AFSC programs in this country and abroad. Mary Ellen McNish, General Secretary of AFSC, will be participating as well. Meeting for Worship is at 11:00 am followed by a "covered dish" luncheon.

We have plenty of room for Friends to join us. Please email Adele Nepley at adelenepley@hotmail.com if you would like to attend and bring a dish to share. Her phone is 610-420-6761, early evenings.

Byberry is located about a half mile east of US route 1 (Roosevelt Blvd) down Southampton-Byberry Road, 3001 Byberry Road at Thornton Road, Northeast Philadelphia.

Meeting Bulletin Board

Volunteers needed for Blood Drive

Red Cross representative, Janine M. Kroculich, koculichj@usa.redcross.org, 215-451-4942, would like to contact a small group of volunteers from the meeting.

She requests that volunteers:

- 1) call the people on the donor list from last year to remind them to give blood this year.
- 2) make reminder calls to people who have signed up to give blood on the day before the blood drive, September 19.

Information and sign-up sheet will be on the table in the lobby outside of the East Room.

Interim Coordinator of Workcamp Programs Needed

The Peace and Concerns Standing Committee seeks **immediate applications** for a 3/5-time position from mid-August 2003 to December 31, 2003. Among this person's duties will be to:

- * Plan & lead two currently scheduled workcamps, plus other events as needed, including a long-term Future of PYM Workcamps event sometime in November;
 - * Maintain the workcamp house in West Philadelphia & the van;
 - * Be in the workcamp office at Friends Center each Wednesday, to handle office affairs & participate in the life & work of the total yearly meeting staff;
 - * Maintain & strengthen relationships with the community in West Philadelphia;
 - * Communicate by e-mail & phone with Peace & Concerns Standing Committee, the Workcamps Working Group, & Monthly Meetings of PYM as way opens.
- Supervised by the Director of Projects & Services. Benefits are pro-rated at three-fifths. Send resumes IMMEDIATELY to Phil Mullen, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia PA 19102, or e-mail philm@pym.org

"Building our Village": A Workshop for Families and other Friends

October 4 2003: 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Swarthmore Meeting (PA)

Are you a parent? A member of a Meeting committee charged with care of members? Are you eager to help your Meeting become a "village" to nurture children or to bring children into the spiritual life of your Meeting? "Building Our Village," is designed to show participants various ways to support parents and families in their Meetings, to experience something of what is possible in building Quaker community. Led by Harriet Heath of Radnor Meeting (PA), founder of PYM's new Quaker Parenting Project, the workshop will include sessions by other PYM Friends skilled in the nurture of children. Topics include how Meetings can support parents, how other adult Friends can mentor children, and what PYM offers to support families. Children will have age-appropriate programs designed to enrich their lives and help them get to know other Quaker children, and will also participate in the large group. The cost is \$10 for each adult participant. Snacks and lunch will be provided, though parents are encouraged to bring their children's favorite foods. Details, including brochures with a registration form that must be returned by September 20 for children, and by September 27 for adults will be sent to clerks of Monthly and Quarterly Meeting committees responsible for care of members. Address inquiries to Steve Gulick of PYM staff at steveg@pym.org or 215-241-7068*; Annette Benert, Clerk of Care and Counsel, at annettebenert@netscape.net or 610-866-9723; Deborah Cooper, Coordinator of Friends Counseling Service, cooperd@redcross-philly.org or 215-248-0489; or Harriet Heath, Coordinator of the Quaker Parenting Project, at harriet_heath@hotmail.com or 610-649-7037.

*Notes from Meeting for
Worship with a concern for
Business*
Eighth Month 2003

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting held meeting for worship with a concern for business on the 17th of August 2003 at the Meetinghouse in Gwynedd, Pennsylvania. The twelfth query on Integrity and Simplicity was read.

Overseers Committee

The welcoming committee for JB Baker-McAllister and her children Meghan and Connor McAllister met on Aug. 6th.

Hilltop

Information on the taxes on the Hilltop Property will be presented to the Monthly Meeting for Business in September. Then, if there are further questions and concerns, a separate meeting will be called to address them.

Historian

Ginny Bergey read the historian's annual report. It was accepted by the meeting. Appreciation was voiced for the attention to detail and hard work Ginny has put into this position.

Worship and Ministry

Barbara Seidel read a letter from the committee, which will be sent to parents of Gwynedd Meeting's children and placed in the newsletter. It will explain current childcare procedures during Meeting for Worship, and will encourage children to attend the last twenty minutes of the Meeting for Worship. It is hoped that this letter will clarify present procedures.

A suggestion was made that perhaps high school age members of Gwynedd Meeting might like to have their own meeting for worship, or a part of the adult worship time might allow for teens to worship among their peers. Religious Education and Worship and Ministry committees will continue to wrestle with the best way to include our young people in worship.

Peace and Social Action

Gary Lapreziosa read an announcement about Priscilla Adams and PYM. The IRS has instructed yearly meeting to garnish Priscilla Adams wages for the \$42,000 of her back tax payments, which she has withheld as a war protest. The Justice Department has instituted a lawsuit against PYM and the IRS is tacking on a 50% penalty. PYM has refused payment and has hired Peter Goldberg, attorney, to handle this tax resistance case.

Vicki Hain-Poorman reported on three yearly meetings that she attended this year as a representative from the Friends World Committee for Consultation, which helps bridge the gaps between various Friends Groups. In May she attended the General Meeting of Friends in Mexico. They had a retreat on "The Family United in Faith". In June she attended Great Plains yearly meeting in Wichita Kansas. This is a mix of pastoral, Indian meetings and unprogrammed meetings. They were interested in outside witness and in growing as a regional group. In July she attended Mid-America yearly meeting. They are an evangelical Christian group in the mid-west and they are very interested in missions particularly in Burundi and Rwanda. On the final day of their conference they had a banquet to honor past missionaries. FWCC is sponsoring a three-year gathering this coming year in New Zealand.

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:35 with 25 people having been present.

Worship and Ministry's letter explaining current childcare procedures as was read at Meeting for Business

Dear Parent:

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting encourages all children to attend Meeting for Worship. There are two books in the Juvenile section of our library which may help orient children to Meeting for Worship: *Zoë Goes to Meeting* by Juliet Batten and *We're Going to Meeting for Worship* by Abby A. Hadley. A pamphlet written by Emily Phillips is also good to read *Thoughts from a Quaker Home*.

We recognize that sitting for an hour-long Meeting for Worship is beyond the attention span of some and thus, childcare is provided as follows:

For Infants, and children up to 6 yrs of age when they are not in First Day School, a childcare person will be available during First Day School, hour-long Meetings for Worship and Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Parents should take children to the classroom off of the entry area of the Community Room and introduce the children to the caretaker on duty. The caretaker will be wearing a yellow armband. Parents should supply diapers, bottles etc which might be needed. Children should be picked up promptly.

For Children ages 6 up to and including 8th graders there is benefit from attending at least a portion of an hour-long Meeting for Worship. There will be a caretaker to supervise playground activities and then bring the children in for the last 20 minutes of Meeting for Worship. The caretaker can be identified by an orange armband and will generally be found on the playground during good weather and in the Community Room during inclement weather. Parents should deliver their children to the caretaker and introduce them. This should be done every time because caretakers will change from week to week and because each caretaker needs to know who is under their care. The caretaker will gather the children and escort them in to the Meeting for Worship when they will be able to sit with you. The intent is to minimize disruption to the Meeting for Worship by having one fairly quiet interruption. It is therefore important to have all the children gathered for the entry. It is helpful to the caregiver if you explain to your children that they are expected to stay with the caregiver and then come in to Meeting for Worship for the last 20 minutes. Your suggestions to them on how to make Meeting for Worship meaningful may help them center. If your child is not coming into Meeting for Worship, it is the parent's responsibility to provide supervision for that child. Note that there is no playground coverage during Early meeting, which is only 30 minutes. Also there is no coverage during Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, which is held concurrent with First Day School during the school season.

For Children in 9th grade and above there is no childcare as they are expected to attend Meeting for Worship. If they are not in Meeting for Worship but are on the meetinghouse premises they need to respect the quietness needed for the Meeting for Worship.

Prepared by Worship & Ministry Committee

March 2003

PYM News

PYM AND THE GOVERNMENT DISPUTE WAR TAXES AGAIN

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's long history of engagement with the Federal government around the issue of war tax resistance has entered another chapter. This July the U.S. Department of Justice filed a civil lawsuit against PYM. The government seeks to collect funds from PYM to cover the income tax bill of employee Priscilla Adams, which after several years amounts to \$42,000 with taxes, interest and penalties. In addition, the government seeks a 50% penalty against PYM because PYM has refused to honor an IRS levy to garnish Priscilla's wages for back taxes. As a matter of conscience, Priscilla has asked PYM not to withhold federal income tax from her wages, because that money could go for military purposes.

If the IRS wins a judgment, it could collect from PYM approximately \$63,000 including the penalty. PYM policy established in 1988 calls for the war tax resister employee to reimburse the Yearly Meeting for what she owed IRS, but not for penalties imposed on PYM. Priscilla Adams, a member of Haddonfield Meeting (NJ), works as PYM regional staff in Haddonfield Quarter. PYM's policy states that, insofar as we are able, we will support any employee who is a war tax resister; and that we will not willingly violate the employee's religious principles (or our own) by collecting from a tax resister and forwarding to the IRS taxes that could be used to pay for war. It is the responsibility of Interim Meeting (or Yearly Meeting in session) to decide how to respond to legal actions if they are brought against us, and to decide any changes in policy.

Priscilla Adams recognizes that if the government wins this suit, she will be responsible for paying the back taxes and interest, so PYM will not have to bear those costs. However, Priscilla may not have the total amount of money available to pay immediately. (She sets aside funds that would have gone to federal taxes, and loans them to nonprofits working for peace and justice.) PYM devotes staff time and legal costs to support this witness, and would bear the cost of any penalty imposed upon it by the court.

This suit is very similar to one filed against PYM in 1988 involving two other PYM employees. In that case, PYM was required to pay the taxes but not a penalty, because it was a test case. The employees reimbursed PYM for the money collected.

A special session of Interim Meeting has been called at 6 p.m. Thursday, September 18, at the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia to make decisions about whether or not PYM wishes to contest the IRS actions in court, to try to negotiate a settlement, or to meet the IRS demands. Peter Goldberger, the very able attorney who has helped us in these matters in the past, will be working with us again.

Gwynedd Friends Meeting
P.O. Box 142
Gwynedd, Pa. 19436