

# Gwynedd Monthly Meeting of Friends Newsletter

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](http://www.gwyneddfriends.org)



**October 2003**

## **Annual Visitor's/ Bring-a-Friend Day**

*Sunday, October 12.* At the Adult First Day School convening at 9:45 there will be two presentations:

- one about the Quaker form of worship and
- the second, a personal story of how s/he was led to Quakerism.

A question/answer period will follow. Visitors are then invited to join us for refreshments and further time to talk.

### **Highlights:**

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At 11:45 all are invited to sit with us in our worship period ending approximately 12:15.

Take a little time to think of someone whom you could invite or bring to this event.

*Note:* A full copy of "Exploring Education Opportunities at Gwynedd" Draft Mission Statement and AQM minutes is available on the web at

[www.gwyneddfriends.org](http://www.gwyneddfriends.org)

## **Gwynedd Friends Youth Group**

Very exciting changes will take place with the youth group this year. At the end of last year we asked the youth group what they thought the purpose of a youth group should be? They told us: *"It is important for the youth at Gwynedd to make a difference by offering service to the Meeting, the local community, and by reaching farther into the world when possible."*

The theme for First Day School this year is community service, the 4th - 12th grade FDS classes will be joining the youth group once a month in the community room.

We will have interactive games the first part of the meeting and afterwards, we will hold our monthly meetings for business. We are hoping high schoolers will lead these meetings this year. All children present will take part in deciding business matters, performing service and going on trips together.

October 12th the youth group will take part in the Crop Walk for Hunger. Sign up to walk with us or to make a donation on the sign up sheet hanging on the youth group bulletin board outside the kitchen.

October 26th will be Parachute games and Youth Group Meeting for business. Contact Pauline Rosa-Martir Schepperd: [cassandra.night@verizon.net](mailto:cassandra.night@verizon.net) or Laura Taylor: [llt901@comcast.net](mailto:llt901@comcast.net) for more info.

## HISTORICAL MUSINGS

History notes from 9<sup>th</sup> Month minutes

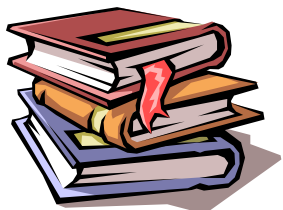
1803-We the committee appointed in the Case of spirituous liquors...call your attention to pernicious consequences arising there from by being opposed to the sense and judgment of the Yearly Meeting, it weakens the hands of well disposed individuals, it inures the health, disqualifies the mind and prevents the reception of the best impressions...

1903-The committee appointed to take charge of the entertainment of Friends attending Abington Quarterly Meeting held at Gwynedd, 8<sup>th</sup> mo 6<sup>th</sup>, 1903 report that they performed that service. A lunch was provided and served in the new building adjoining the meeting House and in the tent purchased a year ago...This lunch was partaken of by about 425 persons. Horses were fed in the sheds and the total cost, irrespective of the price paid for dishes amounted to \$67.80.

1953- The nominating committee was asked to bring forward the name of a person to fill the place on it of Regina Peasley, who has moved away.

Overseers reported the birth of Thomas Edward Helman on 2<sup>nd</sup> of 9 mo., 1953, son of Warren and Olga Helman.

Friends named to call on the Pye family and on the parents of Thomas Edward and James Dale Sarbaugh reported that these calls had been made.



## *The Philadelphia Yearly Meeting theme for the current year is Service.*

### Practical Mystics

“Friends are sometimes called ‘practical mystics’ because Quaker worship has been the wellspring for service in the community and world. An old story is told of a whispered question by a first time attendee to a Quaker meeting, ‘When does the service begin?’ The response was, ‘When the meeting for worship ends’.”

***Faith and Practice defines service as the concept applies to Friends.***

“The impetus for service is often a concern, which is defined as a quickening sense of the need to do something or to demonstrate sympathetic interest in an individual or group as a result of what is felt to be a direct intimation of God’s will. Action, when it follows, is often the result of a leading, a sense of being drawn or called by God in a particular direction or toward a particular course of action.”

During the coming year, the Religious Education committee has invited a number of F/friends to Gwynedd to share their concerns and leadings to their various gifts of service in the Light. Please come, welcome and participate in their service.

*Faith & Practice 1997, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, p. 65.*

**Jeremy Ramont** is our new Friendly Presence in the cottage. If you need to have the building opened for an event, please give him some lead time and call him at 215-699-5527 or email him @ [qramont@vt.edu](mailto:qramont@vt.edu).

## "Yoga Unites" Comes to Gwynedd

Yoga is a 5000-year-old spiritual practice whose ultimate goal is the self in a perpetual state of meditation, a sustained sense of light, well-being, gratitude and peace. The physical practice that we are most commonly aware of is only one of 10 defined steps towards that end. As in the Quaker faith there is opportunity and expectation for constant growth and revelation. Emphasis is also placed on specific foundations of Honoring the Individual, Nonviolence, Compassion, and Respect for Life. The practice of yoga helps develop an inner strength of character, the ability to listen to and love ones' self and others, develop flexibility, balance and love.

On November 2nd, 2003, Jennifer Schelter of YogaSchelter will be presenting to Gwynedd Friends Adult First Day School, from 10 AM until 11 AM. Her program will explore the practice and ethics of Yoga in connection to those of the Quaker community. She will share her work of bringing one's practice to a larger impact on the community by sharing her creation of "Yoga Unites," the power of integrating a spiritual practice with fundraising for specific causes.



Between 12:30 and 1:45 on November 2, Jennifer will lead a yoga class for all ages and abilities in the community room. Donations for this class are set at a recommended contribution of \$20 per person. Half of the proceeds from this event will be donated to "The Friends of the Wissahickon." Wear comfortable clothes and bring a towel or mat and an open mind. Please join us; all are welcome.

For more information about YogaSchelter  
go to [www.yogaschelter.com](http://www.yogaschelter.com)

## Peace Camp at Gwynedd



The committee to Explore Educational Opportunities at Gwynedd is eager to pursue the development of a Summer Peace Camp program at Gwynedd. If you are interested in working with us on this endeavor, please don't hesitate to contact us. We need all sorts of help and energy in order for this idea to move forward. EEOG members to contact include, Janet Henderson, Doug Faulkner, Laura Taylor, Roger Sternfeld, Laurel Doran, Mitch Alden and Stacy Kent Wyckoff.

### Directory Addition:

Debra Thompson: 610-584-4892  
1214 Hollow Road, Collegeville, PA 19426

Jeremy Ramont: 215-699-5527  
1101 Dekalb Pike, Gwynedd, PA 19436

### **Mark Your Calendar!** **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EVENTS**

#### October 5, 2003:

Abington Quarterly Meeting at Norris-town Monthly Meeting.

#### October 12, 2003:

Visitors' Day - Bring a Friend - Fellowship & Outreach.

#### October 19, 2003:

Meeting for Business

#### October 26, 2003

Costa Rican Trip - Kathleen Geist

November 2, 2003: YogaSchelter - Jennifer Schelter

Coming Up on November 1, 2003,

Helen Fields will be conducting a training session for FDS high schoolers in conducting a Meeting for Business.



## GATHERING GARDEN CALENDAR

### Dream Group:

Tuesdays from 11:30-12:30 through May

### Yoga:

Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00 pm from September 30 through November 18, 2003.

### Group Spiritual Direction Meeting:

2nd Friday of the month, 7:00 to 9:15 p.m.

### Artist's Way:

Thursdays March 4 through May 27, 2004.

### Exploring Your Personality:

Saturday, February 28, 2004

### Spiritual Friendships:

Saturday, March 20, 2004

### Spring One Day Retreat:

Saturday, April 17, 2004

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

It's great to be back at Gwynedd Meeting! I look forward to serving the Gwynedd community through managing the newsletter. Please email me articles for the November Newsletter at [trishschoor@comcast.net](mailto:trishschoor@comcast.net) by October 21, 2003.

#### *A little about me:*

I live in Lansdale, I have a daughter, Lindsay who is a senior at North Penn High School. I am currently the Project Manager for the Community Development Block Grant Program for the County of Bucks. I am a graduate of both Abington Friends School and Earlham College and spent eight years employed at The Friends Council on Education.

Thanks for welcoming me back to the community! I look forward to getting reacquainted with everyone.

## Facilities Use Concern

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As more people learn about our improved facilities, there have been increasing numbers of requests for use of the Meetinghouse and Community Room by people unrelated to the Society of Friends. Weddings especially have taxed Gwynedd Meeting's available personnel called on to help with the arrangements. Because of this, it has been decided that Gwynedd Meeting will stop accepting requests for weddings of people not associated with the Society of Friends until we have a better system for dealing with the work involved. There are, however, one or two already on the schedule which need our help.

The Ad Hoc Committee working on building use guidelines has decided to ask for 5 or 6 volunteers for a Wedding Arrangements Committee who would be on call to help with weddings and possibly other events which are being held in our facilities (for a contribution) by people unrelated to Gwynedd Meeting.

The work would be divided among the committee members who are available and would include telephone discussions, opening the building as needed, answering questions about the building, furnishings, regulations, and vendors, checking the building and grounds after the event and locking up. This can be an enjoyable form of outreach if the work is shared and scheduled for individual convenience.

**Please contact Janet Henderson (215) 699-9186 or Joan Meschter (215) 699-3624 if you can help.**



## **Gwynedd Monthly Meeting Minutes (Condensed Draft)**

Trish Schoor was introduced as the new newsletter editor.

Volunteers were requested to go to Quarterly Meeting, along with Kathy Geist who will be attending, and to report back on the proposal that the Meeting consider adding the position of *Assistant Clerk* to the Plan of Organization. Several committees within the meeting, including the Plan of Organization Review Committee, support this proposal. Reasons for the proposal are 1). The work of the clerk is time consuming to the point of it being a limiting reason for people considering the position. 2). The Assistant Clerk would take on some of the duties of clerk, be well informed and able to stand in for the clerk in case of absence, and would have the background that could ease the transition into the clerk's position. The Assistant Clerk would also take on some of the duties of the Recording Clerk such as calling clerks a month in advance of a report being due. This would facilitate the agenda preparation that would be done jointly by the clerk and assistant clerk. 3). This would leave our recording clerk with the responsibilities of recording the activities in the meeting for business, providing a draft for the clerk and reading the previous month's minutes at the beginning of the business meeting. The recording clerk's position would then be more appealing to people with those specific skills and to those who wanted a limited and well defined time commitment. Details of these proposed changes are available in hard copy on the facing bench, and will be available there until the next business meeting. The Meeting will be asked for its guidance in the October Monthly Meeting for Business.

### **Overseers Committee**

Marty Wilcockson reported that the budget for next year would be \$3,700, about the same as last year, with the bulk of it, \$2,700, being used for printing and mailing the newsletter. School scholarship aid was \$6,600. This budget request was accepted by the Meeting.

Marty reported on a recently held weekend workshop for Overseers in which a guest pre-

sender, Jan Hoffman, focused on pastoral care. Overseers found the retreat inspiring and as a result Overseers are reconsidering, among other items, the structure of caring circles. Judy Flanagan and Carolyn Moon were thanked for serving as Elders during the retreat.

### **Friends' Children in Friends' Schools at Gwynedd Monthly Meeting**

Scott Penniman presented plans for funding Friends' children in Friends schools, followed by discussion, questions and answers. A question was raised about special needs children who might not be served by a Quaker school. Also the question of average children who may not qualify academically for Friends' schools; how will they be served by this plan? The matter of providing funding in such cases was discussed. In general the plan is to make a Friends' education less expensive for Gwynedd Friends; there is no promise of complete funding. A brochure documenting the plan was presented and is bound with these minutes. The plan further defines scholarship funding, and establishes a new working group under Overseers that will seek to increase funding for Friends' children in Friends' schools. Overseers would continue to administer funding, and therefore, no change to the plan of organization would be necessary.

The meeting approved the following minute: Recognizing the value of Friends education and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Covenant on Education which establishes as a goal: "To develop the resources to ensure that no Philadelphia Yearly Meeting family seeking an education in a Friends' school for their child be denied that opportunity for financial reasons"; Gwynedd Monthly Meeting has defined and established a plan to support Gwynedd Friends' families with children in Friends' schools. There was Meeting support for the establishment of a working group for Gwynedd Friends' Children in Friends school as proposed by Scott Penniman.

### **Nominating Committee**

Judy Flanagan reported on officers for the Meeting. They are: clerk, Lea Stabinski; re-

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*(Minute continued from page 5)*

coding clerks, Doug Faulkner and Pat Dawe; treasurer was held over; Asst. Treasurer, June Hallowell; historian, Ginny Bergey; and recorder, June Hallowell.

### **An Interim Report on Gwynedd Finances**

Karen Russell reported on the Meeting's financial situation for the first nine months of the year. Her report is bound with these minutes. There is a concern that the Meeting has to deal with a current shortfall of approximately \$20,000. This will have to be addressed as we prepare next year's budget. Henry Beck asked that suggestions on budgeting for next year be sent to him via email.

A report on the Hilltop property for the nine months ending June 30, 2003, will be bound with these minutes. A balance sheet for the Hilltop property was offered for the annual report due in October and accepted.

### **Property**

Neil Trueblood reported the following: A security alarm system is being considered. Information on the changes that will be forthcoming along the roads in front of Gwynedd Meeting is coming in from Penn-dot. New signage along the roads, particularly at the Sumneytown Pike entrance is being worked on. It would include the new kindergarten. \$5000 worth of tree work will be needed to preserve trees at Gwynedd.

There is a new lock box for contributions, etc. It is outside the secretary's office.

Fall workday will be held on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The budget for property committee will be held over until next month.

### **Hilltop Committee**

Neil Trueblood reported that the Hilltop Committee met earlier this week with the Education Opportunities Subcommittee (EEOG) and the Peace and Social Action subcommittee on the Peace Center to discuss the use of the property. In addition, the fund raising committee has been working to identify people who could work on the fund raising campaign. It seems important now for the fund raising committee to

consider the suggested uses for the property and how these uses would relate specifically to fund-raising.

Neil reported that the Hilltop Committee has been considering short-term usage of the property in the interim. Along with the search for current, individual renters, other possibilities are under consideration. The Academy of Community Music might be interested in using the property for their students for lessons and therapy. Minimal changes would be needed to house this group. There is discussion ongoing with the township to see that such usage is permissible. The Academy would like a three-year commitment from Gwynedd, but it must be determined how this fits in with any future use.

### **Adhoc Committee on the Use of Meeting Property, see article on page 4**

### **Exploring Education Opportunities at Gwynedd**

Stacy Wyckoff reported that EEOG committee has drawn up a mission statement and draft plans for programs for bringing Quaker education to those who cannot afford to be at a Quaker School. A national organization, "Breakthrough Collaborative," based in California provides enrichment to Middle Schoolers for college prep. High school and college teachers act as mentors. The program runs six-week programs in the summer, along with enrichment throughout the school year. The committee is also looking into a summer peace camp for elementary schoolers where middle schoolers could act as counselors-in-training. The mission statement incorporating these ideas has been made available for review by meeting members. The proposals will be discussed next month with the hope of presenting a minute to begin plans to pilot the camp program in the summer of 2004.

### **Ad hoc Peace Center**

Connie Lezenby reported on their committee's visit to the Bucks County Peace Center, where their directors shared their set-up arrangements, and provided general information about running a peace center. The Center offers

*(Continued on page 7)*

**It's  
Back!**



## **Gwynedd Friends Coffeehouse for Fall, 2003**

**Doors open 7:30 P.M.; Program starts at 8 P.M.**

Saturday, October 4 - Rik and Wendi Bourne, featuring Bill Dooley These three musicians have been playing together on and off for over 25 years. They play acoustic music in a variety of styles, including old time fiddle tunes, swing, blues, Hawaiian, English dance tunes, and ballads. Wendi is a member of swing group, Girls from Mars, and Rik and Bill are members of Little Rodeo. Instrumentation includes: fiddle, banjo, guitar, harmonica, melodeon, and jaw harp.

Saturday, November 1 - The Rosalie Magen Weinstein and Matthew B. Weinstein Advanced Study Woodwind Quintet. This is our first classical music event for this season. The group are students studying at the Settlement Music School. For those unfamiliar a woodwind quintet, the instrumentation is oboe, flute, clarinet, bassoon and French horn.

Saturday, December 6 - Christopher Westfall - a return engagement. He specializes in the music of John Denver and also includes material from contemporary folk and pop artists such as, but not limited to: Pete Seeger, Beatles, John Prine, Guy Clark, Buddy Holly, David Mallett, Cheryl Wheeler, Brooks and Dunn, Emmylou Harris, and Kate Wolf.

**For further info - contact Carl Baron, 215-699-7835.**



*(Minutes continued from page 6)*

peace programs in every school in Bucks County, dealing with bullying, conflict-management and non-violence. They also offer adult programs. Funding possibilities were also discussed, and they mentioned that they would be interested in collaboration with a Gwynedd Peace Center. It is recommended that the Bucks County Center Peace Center directors make a presentation at a Gwynedd First Day School. Our adhoc Peace center committee is considering a wide range of options including working with Pendle Hill and will attend a meeting there of people from around the United States interested in beginning Peace Centers. The committee is in need of more volunteers.

### **Peace and Social Action**

Joan Johnston gave the proposed budget of \$600, (\$200 more than last year) which would include some additional speakers that they would like to sponsor at Gwynedd. This budget includes support for the families at Hope Gardens. It was mentioned that there is a special fund to support Interfaith, which has \$1900 in it that might be used for that portion of the P&SA budget.

### **Religious Education**

Their budget request for the coming fiscal year is \$675.

Gwynedd Friends Meeting  
PO Box 142  
Gwynedd, PA 19436

### ***A Request from Worship and Ministry Committee***

As you are all by now aware, we have instituted a procedure of ending both First Day Meetings for Worship, with each of us speaking our names. We are each offered an opportunity to bring special joys or concerns before the meeting as part of the process of introducing ourselves. We are pleased that this approach has been well received. With two distinct times for sharing, this committee requests all contributing to vocal ministry to discern whether a message belongs in the worship period as a spiritual message or rather, if it is more of a news item, in the period of sharing after worship. We ask this in the interest of an unbroken quality of worship.



## **F A L L            W O R K            D A Y**

Fall Work Day will be on Saturday, November 15 from 8AM until 12 noon, rain or shine. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to come help with indoor and/or outdoor jobs. Bring friends and family - many hands make (our) light work! Property Committee thanks you and we all benefit from having an attractive and smoothly running facility.