

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting Minutes (Condensed Draft)

19 October 2003

The clerk asked the meeting to think about a suggestion to shorten the reading of the previous month's minutes to action items. The minutes are in the monthly newsletter and in the meeting library, so there are opportunities outside meeting for business to review the minutes. Please contact the clerk with your feelings on this matter (610-279-4601, spiritlea@aol.com). If there seems to be support for the suggestion, it will be brought before a future monthly meeting for worship for business for consideration.

The meeting approved the following recommendations from **Nominating Committee**:

Karen Russell for Treasurer and Jeremy Ramont for membership on the Property Committee. It was also announced that Marie Hubbs will serve as a member from the Gwynedd Fiduciary Corporation of Trustees.

The annual **Treasurer's Report** was presented.

Stewardship reported on the adjustments for 2002 - 2003 Budget. The meeting approved a proposal to make donations to Quaker Organizations in the amount of \$2000 rather than the \$4000 originally budgeted. A transfer of \$17,669 was made from the reserve fund to the operating budget in order to balance the budget.

The meeting discussed its financial obligation to PYM for this year and decided to increase our donation to by 5%, even though PYM had asked for 15%.

Stewardship presented the proposed budget for the meeting for 2003-2004.

A recommendation was made that we consider that each member would need to increase his/her donation by 20% in order to support this budget. Several suggestions were made on how to think about and act on our personal financial responsibility to the meeting, including tithing, giving on a monthly basis, and asking members to make pledges. Stewardship said that it would investigate the possibility of giving via credit

card. Electronic funds transfer is being used by some at this point.

Stewardship asked the Meeting to consider the budget during the month in preparation for a decision in November.

Hilltop presented a proposal that Gwynedd rent the Hilltop property to the Academy of Community Music (ACM) for a period of two to three years. The Meeting agreed to the idea of renting to this group, as this is authorized under the local authorities' definition of religious use; but there are some life, safety, health, and other regulations that we must consider. We should consult with the proper, local authorities before moving ahead. We should proceed on a timely basis so as not to lose the opportunity of renting to ACM.

Due to limited time, further discussion of the ACM proposal and other agenda items were held over.

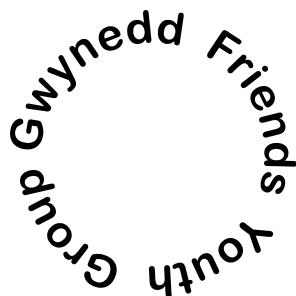
HISTORICAL MUSINGS

History notes from 10th Month minutes

1803- Loved and unity is maintained amongst us in a good degree and we hope friends are generally careful to discourage tale bearing, back biting. And spreading evil report and endeavors are used to end differences when they become known.

1903-Gwynedd Preparative Meeting informs that Elwood Cleaver has been living in Iowa for the past twenty years, he has been written to but no answer has been received. Information has been received that he is a member of another religious society. George Wood and Morris Jarrett are appointed to prepare a testification and present to our meeting.

1953-Our members, David and Paul Seaver, indicated for the second time for failure to comply with the draft laws for reasons of conscience, have received and served a one-day prison sentence.



It has been an exciting start for the Youth Group. On September 28th Tom Allerbach came from Manna on Main St. to talk to our children about world hunger issues and

how their walking the CROP Walk would certainly make a difference. On October 12th eighteen youth members and adults joined the CROP walk for Hunger. Everyone completed the walk. I haven't collected everyone's money yet so I'll have to give you the total \$ raised next month. However, Laura and I would like to thank you all for representing Gwynedd Friends with every step you took towards feeding world hunger.

The end of October the Youth Group held its monthly meeting for business. The youth group members invited the younger grades 1st through 3rd to share in some exciting parachute games. Thank you so much JB McAllister for leading us through a great time!

For a schedule or more info, contact Laura Taylor at llt901@comcast.net or Pauline Rosa-Martir Schepperd at Cassandra.night@verizon.net.

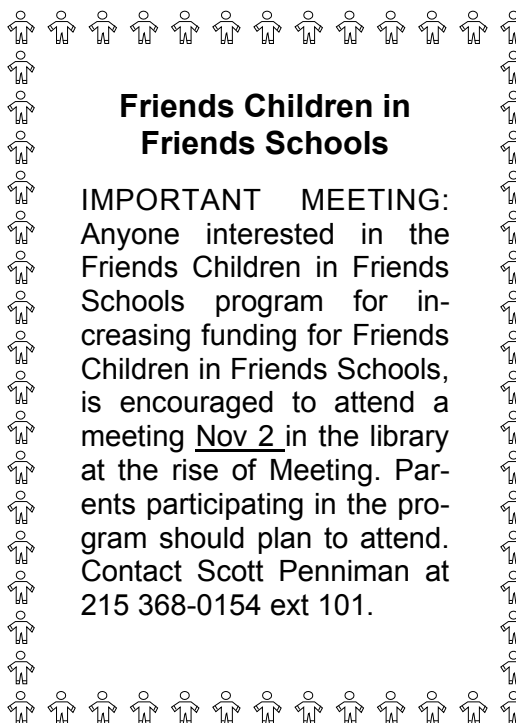
November 8th will be the Youth Group Mystery Dinner at Gwynedd. Dinner will begin at 6:00PM. Look for a sign up sheet on the Youth Group bulletin board. Please support the Youth Group in this effort. Money raised during this event goes towards shopping for those less fortunate during the holiday season. This year we will be shopping for a family through Manna on Main St. You are welcome to bring family and friends to the dinner. This was a great success last year. Please join us again this year. The menu is truly a mystery and how you eat it, well it's kind of hard to explain. Let's just say you'll have a good laugh and leave a bit messy.

November 23rd will be the next Youth Group Meetings for Business. Kelly Hile will be visiting us to speak to us about the organization

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County and how the Youth Group can support their efforts.

Please encourage your children to attend the Youth Group business meetings each month. The Youth Group offers opportunities to build friendships as well as opportunities to serve the community and the world which surrounds us.





Friends Children in Friends Schools

IMPORTANT MEETING: Anyone interested in the Friends Children in Friends Schools program for increasing funding for Friends Children in Friends Schools, is encouraged to attend a meeting Nov 2 in the library at the rise of Meeting. Parents participating in the program should plan to attend. Contact Scott Penniman at 215 368-0154 ext 101.

Adult First Day School

REMINDER -

On November 2nd, 2003, Jennifer Schelter of YogaSchelter will be presenting to Gwynedd Friends Adult First Day School, from 10 AM until 11 AM.

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.

Costa Rica this Spring

There will be an organizational meeting for parents and children who are interested in or are planning to go to Costa Rica this Spring with Kathleen Geist. The meeting will take place at 8 AM Sunday November 16th in the common room at Gwynedd.

For information call Kathleen Geist 215 699-7329, Scott Penniman 215 646-6643 or Kristen Trueblood 215-591-9103.

Christmas Tea Sunday, December 21 at 5PM.



Mark Your Calendar! There will be a musical program followed by refreshments. We ask everyone to bring finger foods. We are currently looking for local talent for the program.

Note from the Editor:

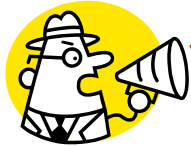
Please email me articles for the December Newsletter at trishschoor@comcast.net by November 20, 2003.

Hunger Project

On November 9, 2003, Gwynedd Adult First Day School will be hosting a presentation by local representatives of the international organization, The Hunger Project.

In its' vision to seek a world free of hunger, The Hunger Project seeks its' success through the empowerment of women, promotion of sustainable communities and the elimination of chronic persistent hunger throughout the world.

Please join us in welcoming Yasmin Goodman and Doug Ross, both activesupporters of The Hunger Project, and hear about their very important work.



Peace & Social Action

is sponsoring a speaker on Friday, November 7, 7:30 P.M. at the Meetinghouse.

He is Bob McIlvaine of September 11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, the group formed of family members of Sep. 11 2001 victims.

The title is "**Turning Grief into Action for Peace.**" We will have light refreshments after Bob's talk and the ensuing discussion. Admission is free.

HILLTOP

Special Notice: The Hilltop/EEOG/Peace Center Group decided they would like to have a worship sharing time around the potential rental of the Hilltop property to Academy of Community Music on Sunday Nov. 9th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

Note: More information will be sent out the week before the meeting date

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	
Nov. 2	YogaSchelter - Jennifer Schelter
Nov. 9	The Hunger Project
Nov. 16	Meeting for Business
Nov. 23	Alternatives to Violence Project - Don Moon
Nov. 30	TBA
Dec. 7	The Peace Center - Connie Lezenby



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Gets Ready for Budget Meeting November 15

P Y M Budget Meeting is November 15: A Meeting for Worship and Financial Stewardship will be held to share information on development of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's budget for 2004-2005. The meeting will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, November 15, in the meetinghouse at George School on Route 413 south of Newtown, Pennsylvania.

The budget meeting provides an opportunity for Friends to hear from and advise the Financial Stewardship Committee before it finalizes a budget proposal. The proposal is then shared with Interim Meeting in January, and sent to Monthly Meetings in February. Yearly Meeting sessions in March will be asked to approve the budget. PYM faces severely reduced income from investments as well as increases in fixed costs. This fall the five Standing Committees of PYM have been considering which programs to keep and which to cut to balance the budget. Monthly and Quarterly Meetings have been informed by the Financial Stewardship Committee that there is a need for a 15 percent increase next fiscal year in the total of financial commitments from Meetings to PYM.

(Continued on page 7)

Come aside from the busy world for extended silent worship, exploration of spiritual disciplines and active silence of reading, drawing, needlework, walks and writing. At the day's end, we will share insights and reflections. Bring a journal, sketch book, crafts, spiritual readings. Also bring food to share during a quiet meal. Cost: \$15.00.

Please register by December 8, 2003



Winter Retreat: A time to rest.

Saturday December 13, 2003 (New date)

9:30 AM - 4:30 PM at Gwynedd Friends

Facilitator: Constance A. Lezenby, M.A. in holistic spirituality and spiritual direction from Chestnut Hill College

In the midst of busy holiday times come for a day of silent retreat. We will gather to share our prayers for the day, then see where the spirit will lead us through journaling, artwork, walking, meditation and sitting quietly by ourselves in silence. At the end of the day we will meet to gather the graces. Bring a bag lunch and snacks to share. Drinks will be provided. Cost \$15.00 , Please register by December 8, 2003

Registration Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ e-mail _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Programs:

Send to The Gathering Garden P.O. Box 142 Gwynedd, PA 19436
Please make check to Gwynedd Monthly Meeting



Gwynedd Friends Coffeehouse

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

<http://www.gwyneddfriends.org/Coffeehouse.htm>

Saturday, November 1 - Gwynedd Friends Coffeehouse presents on Saturday, November 1, 2003 at 8 PM The Rosalie Magen Weinstein and Matthew B. Weinstein Advanced Study Woodwind Quintet. The group are students studying at the Settlement Music School. Cristina Vigilante - flute (Ardmore, PA), Henry Ward - oboe (Westmont, NJ), Ruokai Chen - clarinet (Hockessin, DE), Rachel Gill - bassoon (Bethlehem, PA) and Catherine Eisele - French horn (West Chester, PA). Members of this quintet also perform with the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and the Delaware County Youth Orchestra. Their program will contain works by Beethoven and Joplin. \$4 donation

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.

LOOK FOR THE NEW GWYNEDD MEETING "SAFE BOX"

On the wall, at the left of the Meeting Office door, is the place to deposit envelopes with contributions or important papers. There is a red "flag" at the top which can be raised to indicate that something has been put in the push-in slot of the box. The "Safe Box" can be accessed by officers of the Meeting and by the Preschool director.

(Philadelphia Yearly Meeting continued from page 5)

These Meeting "Covenants" will be reported at the budget conference. Support from Meetings provides about half of PYM's General Fund income. Additional support comes from individual gifts to the Annual Fund. All interested Friends are welcome at the November 15 meeting. There will be coffee and donuts before the meeting, and a mid-morning snack is provided

Gwynedd Friends Meeting
PO Box 142
Gwynedd, PA 19436

(Spiritual Nurture, continued from page 1)

ing of truth? Is there opportunity in our Meeting to share the excitement of religious discovery and the possibility of religious transformation?

Does our Meeting provide opportunities for all in the Meeting to learn about— the Inner Light, the living Christ within, the Bible, the writings of Friends, our Christian heritage, Other religious traditions and their respective roles in the history and formation of Friends' principles?

—the common testimonies Friends declare?

—the variety of expression Quaker faith takes today?

Do I maintain as part of my personal and family life those daily practices that focus on continues spiritual growth, with disciplined worship, inward retirement, and communion with the divine spirit?

Do I frequently read the Bible and other religious literature, including the records of the lives and experiences of Friends? Do I take the time to explore these resources with others, and likewise encourage my children?

Do I share my own faith and spiritual journey, and encourage such sharing within the family?

Faith and Practice, pp. 207-208