



Yardley Friends Meeting Newsletter

November
2011

65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067
www.YardleyFriendsMeeting.org

Ed Snyder, Clerk

Meeting for Worship 10:00–11:00
First Day School 10:15–11:00

Coming Events

- Nov 20 Quarterly Meeting, Quakertown
 - Nov 21 Bucks Food For Friends, Fallsington
 - Nov 22 Meeting for Worship for Healing, Yardley Meeting *
 - Nov 24 Meeting for Worship, Yardley Meeting *
 - Nov 24 Thanksgiving Meeting for Worship, Plumstead
 - Nov 27 Adult RE: On Meeting for Business
 - Dec 4 Yardley Mtg Committee meetings
 - Dec 10 Anti-Bullying Workshop, Friends Center, Philadelphia
 - Dec 11 Yardley Meeting for Business
- * See inside

Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Quakertown Meeting

Sunday, November 20

9 am – 3 pm

9:00: Refreshments and registration

9:30 – 10:30: Adult Program:

Grass Roots Action for a Peaceful World

Virginia Ahern, NJ Peace Action board member
Milton Horowitz, development committee member

9:30 – noon: Children's Program:

Bottles to Fish

10:45 – 11:45: Meeting for Worship

Noon – 1:00: Brown bag lunch with desserts and beverages by Quakertown Friends

1:00 – 3:00: Business Meeting

Quakertown Meeting: Rt 579 and Whitebridge Road in Quakertown (see quakersbucks.org for directions).

Children's Program: Making decorative hanging fish from plastic bottles.

For a Reuse Green craft, the children will make beautiful hanging fish from old magazine pages and empty plastic bottles, then decorate them and add color.

Appropriate for most ages, though the youngest may need some help.

Share Your Inreach/Outreach Story: The Quarterly Meeting business agenda will include time to share quick stories about an inreach or outreach event that caused you to feel the vitality and/or growth in your meeting.



The White Feather of Peace

A true Quaker Adventure Story (inside)

In Our Meeting . . .

Meeting for Worship for Healing

Tuesday, November 22 **7:00 – 7:30 pm**

As the holidays approach, old and new wounds can sometimes cloud the joyfulness that the holidays suggest. To that end, there will be a candlelit “Meeting for Worship for Healing” on Tuesday, November 22 from 7:00-7:30 pm. Childcare will be provided; however, refreshments will not be served.

Thanksgiving Meeting for Worship

The Meetinghouse will be open on Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, November 24, from 10:00 – 11:00 am for Meeting for Worship.

Annual Bucks Quarter Skating Party

January 1 **Bucks County Ice Sports Center**

Fellowship and great fun for the entire family: join Bucks and Abington Quarter Friends and families for the decades-long tradition of the Annual Skating Party. We begin at noon. For more information, call Holly Olson at 215-860-9747 or email hollybqc@verizon.net.

From the Yearly Meeting

PYM Middle School Friends Holiday Gathering

December 2 – 4 **Birmingham Mtg**

Join the Middle School Friends community for an exploration of what the holidays or “holydays” (as they were once known) mean to Friends, what we are thankful for in our lives, what we celebrate about ourselves and our communities, and how we take time out to recharge and prepare for the long winter. Our host is Birmingham Meeting and we might do a little service for Friends there. We’ll have workshops on consumerism, gifts, and making everyday a “holyday,” maybe an optional homemade gift-exchange and talent show, too. Contact Stephen Dotson, Middle School Friends Coordinator at 215-241-717, sdotson@pym.org for more information.

Anti-bullying Workshop

December 10 **Friends Center, Philadelphia**

PYM’s Non Violence and Children’s Working Group is hosting this workshop at no cost by educators Penny Colgan-Davis and Betsy Berger. The workshop will address the current research on bullying, the process for reporting bullying, ways to gather information to help and protect targeted students, strategies to deal with and decrease bullying, and techniques to involve bystanders and confront students who bully. More information is available at www.pym.org/event/anti-bullying-workshop.

Young Friends Christmas Retreat

December 27 – 30 **Burlington Meetinghouse**

For Young Friends 9th grade (or age 14 by September 1) through college age. Silence has been central to Friends’ worship for more than 300 years and yet today many of us are not prepared to use or appreciate silence in our own lives. We will spend 24 hours of our time together in silence, part in “solitude” and part doing things together without words. We will be keeping journals of our personal journeys and a group journal of our experience together. There will be queries to focus our attention, exercises to stir our awareness and a silent walk along the river. We will learn to play without words, and we will learn non-verbal ways to communicate. Your focus should be on using the silence, not trying to getting around it. Most of our time will not be in silence. There will also be a talent show and a dance (not silent - you could be discovered!). Look for a flyer on the PYM website by Thanksgiving - www.pym.org/programs/young-friends-high-school.

Occupy Philadelphia

Interim Meeting of PYM approved the following minute at their sessions on November 12:

“We are grateful for the conversation that has been opened up about wealth and inequality as a result of the Occupy movement. We commend its nonviolent character, note with thanks the contributions of many Friends to the support of this effort, and encourage others in the Yearly Meeting to consider how they might be led to play a role.”

The White Feather of Peace

This story has several variants and some details have been disputed, but the essential events did take place late in the summer of 1777.

New York State Historical Marker and an early Friends meeting house now mark the spot in the Town of Easton, Washington County, New York, where the hilltop meeting house of Saratoga Friends stood in September 1777. Here a band of Mohawk scouts working for the British General Burgoyne who were foraging before the Battle of Saratoga stopped to plunder and stayed to pray.

All settlers had been warned to leave the area and many had already left—there had been two Indian massacres in July. Rufus Hall, a founding member of Saratoga Meeting, wrote in his journal: “Scouting parties on both sides were almost every day at or in sight of some of our houses and we often heard them firing upon one another; but the skulking Indians seemed to strike the greatest dread, the more so because we could not convers (sic) with them.”

Unlike meeting houses in England, where the windows were set high, the buildings in the colonies tended to have windows low enough so that children could gaze out during meeting for worship.

This First Day, the meeting had a visitor: Robert Nisbet, who had just arrived after walking two days to cover the thirty miles between his home in East Hoosick and New Easton (some say he rode his horse all Saturday night). He had for several days felt an increasingly strong leading to visit the meeting, which he resisted until he could ignore it no longer. So he came, arriving on First Day morning.

All agree that he spoke in meeting, quoting scripture: “The Beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him. He shall cover them all day long.” He paused a moment, then went on: “And now, how shall the Beloved of the Lord be thus in safety covered? Even as saith the Psalmist, ‘He shall cover thee with His feathers and under his wings shalt thou trust.’ You have done well, dear Friends, to stay on valiantly in your homes, when all your neighbors have fled; and therefore are these messages sent to you by me. These

promises of covering and of shelter are truly meant for you. Make them your own and you shall not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day.”

Later in the meeting, one of the children saw feathers appear in one of the windows. According to the report of a committee to the Meeting for Sufferings of New York Yearly Meeting (1st month, 9th, 1787)”

“A party of Indians with two Frenchmen surrounded the meeting house; one of the Indians after looking in, withdrew and beckoned with his hand, upon which a Friend went out and was asked by signs whether there were soldiers there, the Indian shook hands with him and the rest came into the house [and all sat quiet for the rest of the meeting for worship]; they were marked, painted and equipt for War, and it being about the conclusion of the Meeting, they shook hands with Friends, and one Friend having the French tongue [the visitor Robert Nisbet] could confer with them with the assistance of the two Frenchmen. When they understood Friends were a Religious Meeting, they went to one of their houses got victuals of which a prisoner with them partook, and they departed.”

According to a later account by Zebulon Hoxie, the clerk of the meeting, published in *The Friend* in 1883, the war party leader told Robert Nisbet that they surrounded the house intending to destroy all that were in it. “When we saw you sitting with your door open and without weapons of defense, we had no disposition to hurt you. We would have fought for you.” “Zebulon Hoxie, one of the Friends present, then invited them into his house, put cheese and what bread he had on the table and invited them to help themselves. They did and went quietly and harmlessly away.”

In the meantime, one of the Indians took one of the feathers with which he had fletched an arrow, and stuck it firmly over the center of the doorway as a sign to other Indian parties that the house was peaceful and under their protection. Robert Nisbet’s prophetic vocal ministry had literally come true.

ELEVENTH QUERY: *Stewardship of Resources*

Queries for the Meeting:

Does our Meeting serve social and economic justice in the uses of property and money?

How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the Meeting's work, its ministry, and the upkeep of its property?

How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?

To what extent does our Meeting rely on current members for financial support, and what role does endowment income serve? Does the Meeting consider carefully the appropriate role of invested funds?

Queries for Individuals:

Am I clear that I am the steward, not the owner, of property in my care?

Do I simplify my needs, making choices that balance self-sufficiency (to avoid unnecessary dependence on others) and fair sharing of resources? Do I make choices as a consumer that support the equitable distribution of income?

Do my employment and other activities allow for use of time and energy in spiritual growth and in service to the Religious Society of Friends?

Do I contribute generously within my means to the funding of the work of Friends in my Meeting, in the yearly meeting, and in the wider world of Friends?

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655 North Main Street
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