



# Yardley Friends Meeting Newsletter

65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067

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

Ed Snyder, Clerk

Meeting for Worship: 10:00—11:00

First Day School: 10:00—10:45 (except summer)

December 2008—January 2009

## ***Coming Events***

- Dec. 5—Friday Fun for middle and high school Friends, 7:00 pm
- Dec. 7—Committee meetings after Meeting for Worship
- Dec. 14—Meeting for Business after Meeting for Worship
- Dec. 15—Bucks Food for Friends
- Dec. 21—Children's Christmas program after Meeting for Worship
- Dec. 24—Evening Candlelight Meeting, 7:00
- Dec. 28—No FDS or child care
- Jan. 1—Prayers for Peace, 11:00 am.
- Jan 2—Friday Fun—TBA
- Jan. 4—Family Worship Sunday; no First Day School. Committee meetings after Meeting for Worship.
- Jan. 11—FDS resumes. Meeting for Business after Meeting for Worship.
- Jan. 18—Book discussion, 1-3
- Jan. 25—Adult discussion after elevenses

## **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT MEETING**

On Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 pm, our traditional candlelight meeting will be held. Come with a candle (or one will be provided for you at the door) and gather in Quaker silence. You will see a table with one lighted candle. As Spirit moves you, rise and light your candle, then place it on the table. If you wish, you may say a prayer, or indicate a person or people you are holding in the Light.

For many, this is a very deep and meaningful worship time. If you have never attended, make time this year to come. You may find that it will become a new tradition for you and your family.

## ***Skatin' Quakers Are Doing It Again!***

Yes, the Annual Bucks Quarter Skating Party is a "go" for New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1, from noon to 2:00 pm at the Face Off Circle in Warminster. Join Friends from Bucks and Abington Quarter for an afternoon of ice skating, stumbling and laughter—skatin' and quakin'!

Cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 14 and under, which includes skate rental. Contact Holly Olson for more information at 215-860-9747 or [hollybqc@verizon.net](mailto:hollybqc@verizon.net).

## **PROCESSION OF FRIENDS CONTINUES...**

The book discussion group decided to continue its discussion of Daisy Newman's *Procession of Friends*. There is much to read and ponder (and enjoy) in this book, so if you missed the first session, haven't read it yet, or haven't finished it, you have a few weeks to do so before we meet again. Next meeting is January 18 from 1 to 3.

## ***Around the Meetinghouse***

### **Holding in the Light...**

**Joey Perillo**, who is undergoing testing for internal bleeding. Also hold in the light his loved ones, Lisa Talerico and Joseph Perillo Jr.

**John Ceneviva's** brother, who fell recently and broke several bones.

Makefield member and former Clerk of Quarter **Karen Shaudys**, who was in a very serious car accident recently and has many broken bones and related injuries.

Linda Sepe asks that we continue to hold her son **Dan Sepe** in the Light.

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### **Welcome to...**

New members **Marna Matthews, Clare** and **Paris Eggers-Hewitt!**

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### **Other news notes...**

Congratulations to **Jeff** and **Ann Bishop**, who celebrated their 33rd anniversary on November 1.

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Our food pantry donations for the year are approaching 1000 pounds—half a ton! **Thanks to all** who are contributing, and to **Lou Bifano** who is distributing the bounty.

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The folks at the Morrisville Presbyterian Church's Food Pantry would appreciate receiving those free calendars we all receive in the mail but don't always use. You can deposit them in either of the boxes in the hallway labeled "plastic bags for the food pantry" or "baby food."

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Hey, check out our newly redesigned and updated website—[www.yardleyfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.yardleyfriendsmeeting.org). Good work, **John Ceneviva!**

## **QUAKERS SEEKING QUAKERS SEEKING SEEKERS**

Are you interested in seeing continued growth in the Religious Society of Friends and your meeting community? The Bucks Quarter Quaker Quest Committee is now forming. If you are interested in joining a Quarter-wide Quaker Quest Committee, please contact Holly Olson at 215-860-9747 or email [hollybqc@verizon.net](mailto:hollybqc@verizon.net).

Quaker Quest is a program of outreach to non-Quaker seekers. It was developed in England and is now being introduced in the US. The basis for the program is a series of presentations to the public on specific topics and the Quaker "take" on them as described by a panel of three Quaker participants. Topics have included, among others, the peace testimony, parenting, the Bible, equality, Jesus.

The events are scheduled well in advance, and major publicity efforts are made to attract seekers and curious passers-by. Each session is structured with brief panelist presentations, an opportunity for the visitors to share and listen to each other, a second set of presentations by the panel on a related aspect of the topic, a question-and-answer session, and then a brief experience of a Quaker meeting for worship. A wrap-up concludes with reflections and questions. The whole event runs about 2 hours.

"Simple, radical, contemporary" is the motto of Quaker Quest. It is focused, positive and based on contemporary Quaker experience.

Seven years ago, when the Manchester (UK) Friends began developing this program, they said:

*There is a remarkable change in heart within the Society. For more than a century we have been reluctant to speak of our faith and to dialogue with our neighbors. Rightly shunning proselytizing we have wrongly failed to offer even an informed choice. We have been more comfortable at traveling incognito, helping to serve society's social and peace-making needs. So the Society has diminished.*

And they ended with this challenge:

*Is it not time to speak with clarity and passion of the power of Truth and Spirit that can transcend greed and violence, lies and spin, materialism and cynicism? Are we not called to listen to spiritual needs and respond to the potential for transformation in everyone?*

## THE MITTEN TREE

Every year, there's a Christmas tree at the front of the meeting room. But it's not just a Christmas tree—it's a Mitten Tree. Yardley Meeting collects new mittens, gloves, hats and other warm winter accessories for those who can't afford these necessities. Bring in something to share and pin it on the tree or leave it underneath. After Christmas all items will be donated to Mercer Street Friends or a similar agency.

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## ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET IN MORRISVILLE

On Sunday, Dec. 7th the Presbyterian Church in Morrisville is having an "Alternative Gift Market" from noon to 3:00. It will feature art from Trenton Soup Kitchen artists, Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade items, handbags from Peru and others. The church is on Pennsylvania Avenue near Trenton Road. If you go down the Morrisville-Yardley Road and veer left near Marazzo's Garden Center, continue almost to the next light. The church will be on your right.

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## Silent Retreats For Friends

Friends and attenders who are drawn to the mystery we call God may find a retreat helpful. Two retreats are offered in 2009 at St. Raphaela Center in Haverford PA. The retreats are one eight-day retreat Monday, January 5 to Tuesday, January 13, and one midweek retreat Tuesday, February 10 to Thursday, February 12. All participants have private rooms and the run of the house, chapel, and spacious grounds, for a prayer-filled time away.

Renee Crauder from State College Meeting is the spiritual director for these retreats, which are co-sponsored by the Adult Religious Education Concerns Group of PYM. The cost for the eight-day retreat is \$500; the midweek retreat is \$175. To register, call St. Raphaela Center at 610-642-5715; for more information, call Renee Crauder at 814-867-0644 or email [rcrauder@comcast.net](mailto:rcrauder@comcast.net).

*Silence is the language of God; it is also the language of the heart.*

—Swami Sivananda

## GATHERING ON PEACE TO INCLUDE RALLY AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

In response to a minute from Uwchlan Meeting in 2007, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has worked with the Mennonite and Brethren Churches to plan a Gathering on Peace. From January 13 to 17, 2009 this conference will take place in Philadelphia. Some 600 participants are expected, approximately half from the historic Peace Churches and half from other Christian traditions. Delegates will participate in a variety of plenary sessions, small group discussions, workshops and panel presentations to explore the faith basis of our peace testimonies and examine how we might better support and engage each other in ongoing peace work.

On Saturday, January 17, the Gathering will expand to include people of faith from around the Delaware Valley. Morning programs will take place at various places of worship. After a simple lunch, all will gather at the church called Holy Ghost Headquarters at 858 North Broad Street for a concluding plenary session.

In preparation for this program of shared worship and public witness, 30 faith communities in the Delaware Valley area will be working to educate and equip members of local faith communities to reduce gun violence in Philadelphia and surrounding areas, through direct action to encourage responsible gun laws and sales. The focus of the public witness will be the "call" of the local faith communities for gun shop owners to partner with the community to make illegal and bulk purchases of handguns far less likely. Gun shop owners will be called to agree to a 10-point "Code of Conduct" fashioned after the Responsible Firearms Retailer Partnership that was recently negotiated between the Coalition of Mayors Against Illegal Guns and a major nationwide retailer of firearms (Wal-Mart).

Further information will be mailed to Monthly meetings and is also available online at [www.peacegathering2009.org](http://www.peacegathering2009.org).

*If you would prefer to receive this newsletter digitally, please let me know and I'll take your name off my mailing labels. If I don't hear from you, I'll keep you on my "paper route."*

*Do YOU have news for the Newsletter? Contact Betty Steckman at [alphabetty123@earthlink.net](mailto:alphabetty123@earthlink.net), 609-393-0015. Deadline is the 25th of each month.*

#### **FOURTH QUERY: Care for the Meeting Community**

Are love and unity maintained among us? When conflicts exist, are they faced with patience, forbearance, and openness to healing? Are avenues for exploring differences kept open? To what extent does our Meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?

Is the Meeting a safe, loving place? When we become aware of someone's need, do we offer assistance? Are the meetinghouse and the Meeting property physically accessible to all?

Do all adults and children in our Meeting receive our loving care and encouragement to share in the life of our Meeting, and to live as Friends? Do we truly welcome newcomers and include them in our Meeting community?

When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the Meeting respond?

How does our Meeting keep in touch with all its members?

*Am I ready to offer assistance as part of my religious community serving its members? Am I equally willing to accept graciously the help of others?*

*Do I recognize and face disagreements and other situations that put me in conflict with others? Do I manifest a spirit ready to give or receive forgiveness?*

*Do I treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension? Is my manner with visitors and attenders to my Meeting one of welcome?*

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