



Yardley Friends Meeting Newsletter

65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067

www.YardleyFriendsMeeting.org

Ed Snyder, Clerk

Meeting for Worship: 10:00—11:00

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

March 2009

Coming Events

- Mar. 1—Committee meetings
after Meeting for Worship
- Mar. 6—Friday Fun with Young
Friends, 7:00
- Mar. 8—Meeting for Business
after Meeting for Worship.
Family Worship Sunday-no
FDS
- Mar. 13—Potluck dinner, 6:30
“Living Our Quaker Values”
- Mar. 15—query discussion after
Meeting for Worship
- Mar. 22—Book discussion
group, 1-3
- Mar. 29—Meeting for Worship
- Apr. 5—Committee meetings
after Meeting for Worship.
Highway cleanup
- Apr. 12—Easter; Meeting for
Business postponed until
April 19.

Superintendent for March: Ted
Taylor

POTLUCK ON MARCH 13!

The RE Committee is holding a potluck supper on Friday, March 13 at 6:30 pm. Friends are invited to enjoy an evening of good food and good fellowship! Following dinner, there will be an adult education program presented by YFM's own, Gretchen Nordleaf Nelson on the Quaker SPICES. Gretchen is a teacher at George School. Friends are asked to bring a covered dish to share for supper. Beverages and dessert will be provided by the RE Committee.

During Gretchen's program, the children will pack healthy snack bags for the Red Cross Homeless Shelter in Levittown. Friends are asked to please contribute the following items to assist with this effort: Small fruit juice boxes, cereal/granola bars (not nuts, please!)

WHO YA GONNA CALL?

Committee clerks for 2009:

Meeting Services—Drew Sites (drewsites@verizon.com; 267-572-0282) for issues concerning the Meetinghouse and property.

Outreach, Peace & Social Action—John Ceneviva (eflotsam@ceneviva.com; 215-736-8442).

Pastoral Care—Linda Sepe (lsepecoach@aol.com; 609-466-0231) and Tricia Coscia (jtcoscia@verizon.net; 215-295-0488) for personal issues, clearness requests, membership requests, travel or other financial help.

Religious Education—Janie Scurti (janescurti2002@yahoo.com; 215-295-2545) for issues relating to First Day School.

Worship & Ministry—Pamela Retseck (pamret@msn.com; 215-534-8435) for concerns relating to the worship and spiritual life of the YFM community.

If you're not sure who to contact, check with Ed Snyder, Clerk of Meeting (mrp.ed@verizon.net; 609-730-9481).

Around the Meetinghouse

Holding in the Light...

Libby Honeyman's daughters Susan and Barbara. Libby passed away on February 19. A memorial service is being planned.

Congratulations to...

Lisa Darnowsky, celebrating a birthday on March 15, and daughter **Anna**, celebrating her 14th birthday on March 20.

Hold the date...

Saturday, May 9—YFM Spring Flea Market under the trees. Rain date Saturday, May 16.

Saturday, May 16—Bucks Quarter Afternoon of Fun at Buckingham Friends School campus from 1 to 4(ish). Join Friends from all over the Quarter for an afternoon of music, food, fun and relaxation under the trees!

Contact Holly Olson for further information at 215-860-9747 or hollybqc@verizon.net.

Sunday, May 17: Quarterly Meeting at Yardley. Leon Bass will speak on "Racism, Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust." In addition to the program, worship, and business meeting, there will be a morning program for First Day School children. Child care will be provided. YFM will provide morning snacks and a light lunch.

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

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter digitally, please let me know .

LOOK WHAT'S COOKING AT BUCKS FOOD FOR FRIENDS!

February 16th was the third Monday of the month. The date was significant to our stalwart group of 15 Bucks Friends because the third Monday of every month we gather at the kitchen of Falls Meeting House to prepare and serve a meal to guests who find us each month.

Each month three volunteers go to food pantries in the area distribute our fliers and personally invite people to come share a free meal. Our chief cook Debby finalizes the menu, and this month Mercy did the shopping. Every month one energetic Friend, Nancy, goes to grocery stores, bakeries, and farmer's markets collecting food for us to use or give away. We use space in her freezer, in Holly's freezer, and in the donated one we now store at Middletown Meeting. Two extra large soup pots were added to our supplies, the result of a generous gift and a trip to a thrift store. Thank you notes of appreciation will be written this week. At around 2 p.m. the four volunteer cooks arrive and start chopping, preparing the ingredients for the meal. We have had roast pork, turkey breast, meatloaf. A wonderful chicken meal was prepared by Linda and sent to us from her chef's kitchen last fall.

Vegetables, salad, bread and a dessert are always part of the meal. An average of 24 guests has come each month, with about a third of those being repeat guests. We prepare enough food to feed fifty people each time, so we have been able to send folks home with leftover meals.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP BUCKS FOOD FOR FRIENDS

1. Pray that the people who need the food and company most in the area will find us each month.
2. Volunteer to come out and help once or twice a year.
3. Donate money.
4. Ask at places where you regularly shop if they would be willing to donate fresh meat, vegetables, fruits or desserts. We can provide information with an official letterhead.
5. Raise money by finding sponsor for your participation in the **Walk Against Hunger on Saturday, April 11**. The Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger invites you to come to the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art in the morning and gather with friends, family, classmates, co-workers. Check out www.hungerwalk.org.

We want a group of us all to walk together on April 11. Contact Marna Matthews if you can come. We'll have an organizational gathering after Meeting on Sunday, Apr. 5.

OPENING REMARKS AT INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE GATHERING

[Ed. note: John Ceneviva provided the following welcome to participants gathered at YFM on February 21 to honor the UN International Day of Peace.]

So, a priest, a rabbi and a pacifist walk into a bar...

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to the United Nations International Day of Peace observance at Yardley Friends Meeting.

My name is John Ceneviva and I am the clerk of Outreach, Peace and Social Action of Yardley Friends. I'd like to thank the Buddhist Sangha for hosting this event, for Dr. D'Silva's efforts at coordinating it and for all the presenters.

I am currently listening to the book Emotional Awareness by the Dalai Lama and Dr. Paul Ekman. In it, the Dalai Lama says, "One of the things that is most effective in my own dealings with others is reflecting deeply upon the interdependent nature of interests. Of course, in dealings with people that you do not know initially it does not really matter. These people are not going to affect you. But the people you do know and that you have relations with are part of your life and their interrelations with you matter – they are part of the community and you are part of that community. If you can deeply meditate and reflect upon this and nature on the interdependent nature of your well-being and interests, that could be helpful."

I believe that peace begins inside the individual and then spreads out into the community from there or rather from here *[fist touches chest]*. Each of us here is attempting to create a community of peace; to create a culture of peace. Today, we are here to learn from each other, to nurture the core of peace within each other and to develop effective strategies for promoting peace in our communities.

It is my solemn hope that everyone here attains peace - inside themselves, inside their family, inside their friends, inside their communities and inside the world. I say inside because peace does not radiate out like the sun but gathers when we gather. It participates when we participate. It is not an object, but a verb, a way of life. As the Quaker banner reads, "There is no way to peace. Peace is the way."

But as Paul said, "Faith without works is dead", many assembled here and many of the presentations / discussions will have found a way to work towards peace. I'm hoping to learn peace and teach peace today. I'm hoping that as we leave here, we can better realize the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, "It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it."

Thank you for having me here, thank you for being here, thank you for blessing this building with your peaceful intentions.

FOOD SHARES AVAILABLE FROM SNIPES FARM

The Snipes family on Morrisville have lived and worked on their land for over one hundred years. They have decided that to keep the land in agriculture, they need to involve the larger community in understanding how to farm land in a sustainable manner so that it continues to be productive.

The Farm School At Snipes is a newly formed non-profit organization. The goals are to involve the community in the land and food production preservation. A major part of the business is education of youngsters. A farmer teacher visits elementary classes and teaches several lessons, then the students come to visit the farm to work in a garden and see the animals.

A second emphasis is on sustainable production of food. To that end the Snipes have dedicated part of the farm to CSA—Community Supported Agriculture. Local residents purchase an annual share of the vegetables and fruit production. Members pick up produce each week from June to November. They also come and help with chores in the fields as a part of their contribution.

Shares are currently being sold. To purchase a share or for more information, please contact: Susan Snipes Wells at 215-295-1139 Ext. 103 or susan@farmschoolatsnipes.org

SEVENTH QUERY: Social Responsibility and Witness

How does our Meeting work:

- to overcome social, legal, economic and political injustices, locally and in the wider world?
- for the funding of community services that does not rely on gaming income?

Does our Meeting serve the community through action on concerns for civic improvement? What actions are we taking to assure everyone equal access to education, health care, legal services, housing, and employment as well as equal opportunities in business and in the professions?

When a member has lifted up a concern, how does our Meeting respond?

Does our Meeting encourage those seeking clearness for their convictions of conscience to hold up such convictions with prayerful openness to the Light?

Am I mindful of how my lifestyle and my investments can contribute to the improvement of the human condition, or to the exploitation of others?

Am I open to seeking clearness on matters of conscience and to assisting others in doing so? How do I respond and support one who acts out of a clear leading when I am under the weight of another?

What am I doing to work for the betterment of my community to assure the maintenance of effective public services which do not rely on funding from gaming?

Do I fulfill my civic responsibilities when they do not conflict with divine leadings?

Yardley Friends Meeting
65 North Main Street
Yardley, PA 19067