

Caln Quarterly

Communications of Caln Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Fall 2007

Minutes of the Summer Meeting of Caln Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Held at Old Caln Meeting Eight Month 19, 2007.

Caln Quarterly Meeting was held at Old Caln Meetinghouse on the 19th day 8th month 2007 with 35 Friends in attendance, representing all the monthly meetings of the quarter. Clerk Blair Seitz welcomed all and noted that he is moving to Millville, New Jersey but will remain clerk of the quarter until a new clerk is named. He reminded us that we conduct our business in the spirit of worship, introduced the agenda and welcomed guest speaker Pat McBee of Friends Center.

Darlington Hoopes gave the treasurer's report. The quarter's opening balance was \$15,401; receipts totaled \$29,722 and disbursements were \$30,227. For Camp Swatara, revenue was \$16,996 and expenses \$16,410; \$1000 of that expense is the deposit for next year and should be tracked as an asset at this point. Charles Lane requested a bill for Lancaster MM to pay CQM for their members' Swatara attendance. Darlington explained that the other meetings who cover this expense keep track and send it in without a bill. Marie Ryan suggested the Swatara registrar could handle this.

Friends approved the covenant of \$8.50 per member for the quarter's budget and \$38 per member for the coordinator's program for our 07-08 budget. Darlington, Blair and Marie drafted a letter to MM clerks, treasurers and finance committees outlining the 08-09 covenant process.

Uwchlan MM report: the meeting celebrated Francis Brown's 90th birthday, is enthusiastic about the Peace Conference initiative and have chosen representatives for it. The meeting has been holding monthly peace vigils, has a book club and provides a monthly dinner for the Salvation Army. The Friends Fall Festival will be on Saturday, October 13. Adrian Martinez noted that a small group of Uwchlan members that had been meeting monthly at Old Caln now meets here every Sunday, except for the last First Day, which is Uwchlan's meeting for business.

Sadsbury MM report: the meeting has been holding adult forums after meeting for worship. On Saturday, October 27, they are hosting a shape note singing event and will host CQM on Sunday, October 21, at which Francis Brown will be the speaker. They have done a lot of restoration work on their meetinghouse.

Peggy Keck reported that Exeter MM wants to start a school. She is offering beautiful knitted caps and scarves for a \$10 donation. They will first raise a building for their First Day School and a kindergarten. The clerk asked us to hold Exeter MM in the light in this important endeavor.

Blair, Marie and Tom Dareneau met regarding the newsletter editing and production. Marie creates much of the content on computer, so it would make sense for her to also produce it. Tom has done the work for many years but would be pleased to pass it on to Marie. The clerk suggested we approve but have CORC review it in one year, to make sure it's not a burden on Marie's time and other work. Darlington said QM pays Tom \$420 per quarter and we should now compensate Marie for that. The clerk asked CORC to determine if it represents additional work. Friends requested a transition from postal mail to email. Friends

approved and meeting expressed its appreciation of Tom Dareneau for his many years of service to the quarter.

Before and after meeting for worship and lunch, we discussed four queries on quarterly meeting-monthly meeting relations. Two of our quarterly meetings each year are hosted by monthly meetings, where they create the program and add their own flavor. Camp Swatara strengthens our bond, along with programs like our youth events, Lampeter meetinghouse work bees and the Harrisburg-Lancaster mosque visit. Friends want to see more interaction among Friends in the quarter; we need to introduce new members to the QM so they understand they're also members of the quarterly and yearly meetings. Friends said it's a national problem: people are interested in their local church and activities. It was suggested we reinstate a group that existed in the past, of Friends who visit meetings in the quarter. Quarterly meetings can provide clearness committees when monthly meetings need assistance. Quarterly meetings need to better inform Friends of their work. Friends hoped the queries would be sent to the monthly meetings to consider.

Jed Smith noted the wall at Old Caln is in need of repair. The clerk took it under advisement and will place it on the next QM agenda. The project will cost \$5000-6000; Old Caln trustees have \$1600, Gerry Williams has been doing some of the preliminary work to lower costs, and Friends asked Marie to organize a work group and commit \$300 from her budget for materials.

Coordinator's report: Other quarters have asked for our QM-MM queries. Marie and CORC reps will meet at each MM to discuss the program and what meetings need. Lancaster is hosting a quarterly event of a youth-led peace event. Chuck Barbour reported that every MM is represented on CORC, which has improved communication and has reviewed Marie's job description.

Sandy Grotberg presented a minute on the use of torture, which meeting approved. It had been presented as informational at last QM but Friends asked CQM to join. At our next meeting we will discuss how to approach and work with PYM to move forward on this issue. The clerk suggested the QM ask monthly meetings to contact legislators and PYM.

Thomas Swain, clerk of yearly meeting, reported on the minute on the creation of an interfaith peace conference, commenting on how well this exemplifies the process of supporting a leading from a MM, with seasoning through a QM and then brought forward to YM. \$150,000-300,000 has been authorized to start the process. New England YM and Ohio YM have contacted PYM with interest.

The clerk thanked Kimberly Haas Diliberto for acting as recording clerk in Jim Herr's absence.

Taylor Lamborn reported on the Climate Action Network. Caln is paired with Upper Susquehanna QM into the "Greater Pennsylvania region" and has been especially effective because both our coordinators are involved and three members work in the field or are technically inclined. Friends from Reading, Exeter, Uwchlan and Schuylkill met with Congressman Jim Gerlach, and Taylor met with State Senator Joe Pitts's assistant. Exeter MM held a forum on green planning for townships. Pat McBee gave an informative presentation on the Friends Center green renovation project.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Haas Diliberto, acting Recording Clerk
Blair Seitz, Clerk

From the Desk of the Coordinator

Exciting activities and initiatives are taking place throughout the quarter. This 1st weekend of October Harrisburg friends have again hosted a middle school retreat for CQ. The focus of the weekend is Practicing Peace. This event is a really great way for new middle school friends to become acquainted with others who are now old enough for weekend programs. Normally there are between 8 and 15 young teens, a bit less overwhelming than a large yearly meeting gathering. Obviously it is too late for this year's event, but for those 5th graders who have enjoyed Camp Swatara since they were little this could be next year's perfect introduction to Middle School Friends programs.

October 13th will be a busy day in the eastern end of the quarter. This year marks the 200th anniversary of Schuylkill MM. There will be activities, including the Eyes Wide Open exhibit, at the meetinghouse in Phoenixville. (See announcement below). Also on the 13th is the annual Fall Festival at Uwchlan MM in Downingtown. (See website for more information) Sadsbury Friends are hosting 2 events for the quarter this fall. On the 21st friends at Sadsbury host the quarterly meeting for business and also will serve a covered dish luncheon. (Please see the flyer on p.3). The following Saturday-- the 27th-- Sadsbury will host a Shape-Note Sing-- again serving a covered dish! Friends so inclined are welcome to bring their own dish to share.

On November 10 Lancaster MM's Peace and Social Concerns committee is hosting the Day of Informed Recruitment Training for Young Friends and for parents, teachers or guidance counselors interested in supporting young people who are concerned about the increasing military presence in their high schools. Please spread the word in your HS first day class and in your school. (see announcement below)

Leadings from friends in the quarter have led to the adoption of two Minutes: The CQ Minute Condemning the Use of Torture (originating from Schuylkill Friends and brought to the quarter at the spring business meeting) will be on the agenda of Interim Meeting this October 25.

Also at the spring business meeting Caln Quarter Friends approved the Minute from Uwchlan MM asking that PYM host an Ecumenical Peace Conference at Arch Street Meeting. This minute has since been approved by the Yearly Meeting at Residential Sessions in July. Plans for the conference are underway. Here is the statement from Interim Meeting:

Ecumenical Peace Conference planning by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting now underway

Thomas Swain, Yearly Meeting Clerk, has named a Steering Committee to plan this event, enthusiastically authorized by Residential Yearly Meeting in session last July. It met at Uwchlan Meeting on September 23 with 15 members present. This body is taking responsibility for charting the broad outlines of the conference and making all necessary decisions, in careful consultation with members of an interfaith Advisory Committee, now in formation.

Out of worship and through thoughtful discussion, the Committee discerned that this gathering needs to be grounded in a spiritual imperative to seek and build toward peace. Inspired by the Biblical injunction in Romans, "Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good," we affirm there is great power in acts of goodness. Are we ready to offer sacrificial witness of positive alternatives to violence to a suffering world? Hope was expressed that this conference might lead to specific acts of peace engagement, arising from the spirit of the gathering, possibly in the form of "citizen diplomacy" delegations sent to areas of conflict. We should be ready to "walk the walk" after "talking the talk."

The Committee found unity on a number of key initial decisions to move us forward:

- Thomas Swain will gladly serve as Clerk of this Steering Committee
- Philadelphia Yearly Meeting will extend the conference invitations in collaboration with the Mennonite Church and The Church of the Brethren, with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting serving as host.
- The central venue will be the Fourth and Arch Streets Meetinghouse, coupled with use of the
- Holiday Inn. If overflow space were needed, we would seek to make use of nearby churches. Hold the event in March 2009, starting on a Wednesday evening and concluding the following
- Sunday.
- Anticipate as many as 600 participants, with about 300 serving as delegates from perhaps 30 faith communities.
- Arthur Larrabee, General Secretary, is authorized to hire a new part-time staff person, skilled in organizing large conferences, to provide full support to the Steering Committee and facilitate carrying out all the promotional, logistical and practical aspects of the event.
 - In this regard, the General Secretary will identify and, at the appropriate time, enter into a separate contract with a suitable professional conference-organizing agency.

Financial considerations: already Yearly Meeting funds available plus a contribution received, amount to about \$30,000, and one or more grants are being sought. The Committee expressed confidence that the funds necessary to meet the entire coming expenses will be found.

The Steering Committee plans to meet next on November 4 at Plymouth Meeting (if invited). Subsequent meetings are scheduled for December 2, 2007 and January 6 and February 3, 2008.

Those members accepting appointment to the National Peace Conference Steering Committee are:

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| Judith Anderson, (Uwchlan) | David Bates (Middletown/Concord) |
| Anne Bradley (Uwchlan) | Ted Brinton (Birmingham) |
| Francis Brown (Uwchlan) | John Bryer (Uwchlan) |
| Sam Caldwell (Providence) | Gretchen Castle (Doylestown) |
| John Caughey (Moorestown) | Aaron Crosman (Centre) |
| Zac Dutton (Wilmington) | Suzanne Day (Westfield) |
| Pat Finley (Old Haverford, Peace & Concerns Standing Committee) | |
| Robin Harper (Providence) | Arthur Larrabee (Central Philadelphia, General Secretary) |
| Peggy Pillard (Uwchlan) | Thomas Swain (Middletown, Clerk of PYM) |
| Barbara Walker (Hockessin) | Jim Waddington (Salem) |

Three other Young Adult Friends have been invited
Several members from local Mennonite and Church of the Brethren representatives

Those members accepting appointment to the National Peace Conference Advisory Committee are:

Paul Anderson (George Fox University)
Bruce Birchard (Friends General Conference)
Bob Edgar (President of Common Cause)
Sylvia Graves (Friends United Meeting)
Mary Ellen McNish (American Friends Service Committee)
Stanley Noffsinger (Church of the Brethren)
Thomas Swain (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting)
Five or six others with national/international perspective

The Advisory Committee would make recommendations to the Steering Committee. This group would plan to work by telephone conference call and have as their task to (1) Identify the questions that need to be raised and that can be answered by this conference; (2) know the people who must be invited to present; and (3) know the audiences we would invite to participate.

Prepared by Robin Harper

John Bryer has created a *National Ecumenical Peace Conference* page on our website. Go there for updates or to add your name to an email list to have updates delivered to your email box.

<http://www.2009peaceconference.org/>

Schuylkill Friends Celebrate Bicentennial

The celebration will be marked by informal tours of the property and burial ground, children's activities and refreshments. A multi-media historical presentation facilitated by Robert Herbertson will be held at 2:00 pm, followed by an open discussion on the history and spirituality of Quakerism. The bicentennial observance will also be marked with a memorial exhibit, called *Eyes Wide Open*, for victims of the Iraq War. The impact of this war on Pennsylvania is the focus of the exhibit *Eyes Wide Open Across Pennsylvania*. The exhibit, which will be set up in the Friends burial ground features over 170 pairs of combat boots memorializing the US soldiers from Pennsylvania who have died in the Iraq War. In addition, an Iraqi exhibit of 50 shoes and posters raises awareness of the huge number of Iraqi civilian casualties. Since the spring of 2006 *Eyes Wide Open Across Pennsylvania* has been traveling around the state in urban areas and small towns, bringing awareness of the human cost of this war. The national death toll is now over 3,600 U.S. military casualties. A vigil and prayer of remembrance will be offered for all the victims of war later in the afternoon. Schuylkill Friends Meeting is located at 37 North White Horse Road, Phoenixville, PA. The event itself will run from 12 noon until approximately 5:00 p.m. Admission is free, as are the activities and refreshments. For more information call Michael at 484-984-0291 or pmquay1@yahoo.com

Marie C. Ryan
Caln Quarter Coordinator
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Caln Quarterly Meeting for Business
Sadsbury Friends Meeting 10/21/2007 at
Taxing My Conscience: A Personal Journey by Robin Harper
Meeting for Worship 9:30am

D.I.R.T. is coming November 10

DIRT, or Day of Informed Recruitment Training, will be offered to high school students who want practical training to work within their schools helping to educate and inform fellow students who are considering serving in the military. There will be 4 workshops focusing on Effective Dialoguing, Forming Clubs & Tabling, Student Rights & Regulations, Alternative Service & Sources of Funding for College, and Conscientious Objection. **Presenters include:** Oskar Castro of AFSC's Youth & Militarism Program; Peter Crownfield formerly of LEPOCO (Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern); Col. James W. Thompson of the PA Army National Guard; and an Iraq War vet. **WHERE:** East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church in Lancaster PA 17602 **WHEN:** November 10, 2007 9am-4pm Hosted by: Lancaster Friends Peace & Social Concerns Committee For more information and to register contact Marie Ryan, Caln Coordinator at coordinator@calnqm.org or 610-777-5825.