



# Caln Quarterly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends

*Winter 2008*

“True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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## CALENDAR

Feb 8-10—“Building and Holding Safe Spaces for our Youth”, Pendle Hill  
Feb 17—Quarterly Meeting for Business, Harrisburg MM  
Feb 19 & Feb 21 and Mar 3 & Mar 26—PYM Annual Fund Phonothon: Callers are needed to make calls reminding Friends to support the PYM Annual Fund. To volunteer call 215-241-7115  
Mar 1—Worship, Ministry & Eldering Gathering for Extended Worship, Chestnut Hill MM, 9:30-4:00  
For info: (610) 627-0390, [FriendMarcelle@aol.com](mailto:FriendMarcelle@aol.com)  
Mar 8—Godly Play Workshop, Uwchlan MM (Downingtown) 9am-5pm (see p. 5)  
Mar-28 & 29—Philadelphia Yearly Sessions, Arch Street Meeting House  
Apr 10- Elaine Pagels, Haverford College, 4:15pm  
May 2-4—Camp Swatara Retreat Weekend, Quarterly Meeting for Business (see p.4)  
July 30-Aug 3—Yearly Meeting Sessions, DeSales University  
Aug 17—Caln Quarterly Summer Meeting for Business, Old Caln Meeting House  
January 13-17, 2009—“Heeding God’s Call: A Gathering on Peace”, Arch Street Meeting House

## WINTER QUARTERLY MEETING

February 17, 2008 at Harrisburg Monthly Meeting 1100 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street

“Homelessness: More than the Person on the Street”

Program: 9:30-10:45

Presenters:

Carter Nash, Client Counselor at Downtown Daily Bread soup kitchen  
Kay Pickering, Housing Specialist working in homelessness prevention in Harrisburg  
Patricia Finley, Clerk, Peace & Concerns Standing Committee  
Joan Broadfield, PYM Peace & Justice Coordinator

11-noon Meeting for Worship

12:15-1 Light Lunch offered by Harrisburg Friends

1pm Caln Quarterly Meeting for Business

Programming for children and younger Friends offered throughout the day.

## MINUTES

Autumn Meeting Of Caln Quarterly Meeting, The Religious Society of Friends, Held At Sadsbury Meeting on Tenth Month 21, 2007

We tried a new pattern with our meeting today. Meeting for Worship began at 9:30 and ended at about 10:30. After a brief break, we listened to Robin Harper, Co-Clerk of the Yearly Meeting's Conscience, Militarism and War Tax Concerns Working Group, talk about his spiritual journey in **TAXING MY CONSCIENCE: A PERSONAL JOURNEY**. After Robin's excellent talk, Sadsbury Meeting provided a bountiful covered dish lunch. Then, a little after 1:00, we settled into worship again. At about 1:15, Clerk Blair Sites took up the business of Meeting.

Blair noted his appreciation, on arriving at this beautiful historic building, of an awareness of the Spirit among us. He asked us to keep ourselves attuned to that Spirit as we listen to each other.

Slightly revised minutes from summer meeting were distributed and read silently. They were then corrected, and approved.

Part of the corrections involved a discussion of reducing the expense of the newsletter by encouraging people to receive it by email. Marie hopes to talk to each Meeting in the Quarter for input on the whole newsletter business.

Blair brought up the minute on torture and suggested that it is a highly appropriate subject to consider.

Francis Brown suggested that the \$300 from the Quarter for the wall at the Old Caln meetinghouse will be put toward a new wood shingle roof for the building that will cost about \$36,000. We approved that transfer, and decided to add \$700, making our contribution \$1000. Francis expressed appreciation.

Taylor Lamborn talked about the Climate Action/Global Warming Network. There are a few pertinent bills in the Federal and State governments. Taylor offered to forward email information about these bills to anyone present.

Taylor then gave a report about the activities in Reading Meeting. They are having an "eat locally" pot luck, and will have a forum on the subject. Nan Morrissey added that the Meeting continues to provide school supplies for Iraqi school children through a program by Mennonite Central Committee. One Tuesday per month, Reading prepares dinner at Opportunity House, the homeless shelter. Their peace and social concerns committee is

also participating in another program, Family Promise, to help the homeless.

Mose Cornwell from Bradford Meeting said they have come from the summer doldrums when only 6 -10 people attend. But recently they participated in a "ghost walk" that presented in a good light the Meeting and Friends to a large group from the community.

Darlington Hoopes, Jr. gave a treasurer's report. We started with \$15,497.66. Money came in and disbursements were made. The balance on October 21, 2007 was \$16,717.01. A few Meetings in the Quarter were asked to keep in process the consideration of covenant for 2008, providing this information to the Quarter's treasurer as soon as possible.

Blair then brought up the subject of the Monthly Meeting/Quarterly Meeting/Yearly Meeting evaluation process. Bill Pickering helped guide this discussion. Marie will visit the Meetings in the Quarter, and a few Friends present expressed a desire to support her in her travels. This will be considered and acted on over the next few months with a report on its progress at our next meeting.

We considered queries presented in August on the Quarterly Meeting. A Friend suggested that our meetings have had very valuable programs, including Robin today. He suggested that it's sad more members are not involved. ... The Quarterly Meeting, a Friend suggested, is the vehicle to transfer thoughts and feelings from individuals through Monthly Meetings to the Yearly Meeting. And it was suggested that the Quarterly Meeting can be a way to keep Monthly Meetings in touch with larger issues, such as the Torture Minute. ... Concern was expressed that the Monthly Meetings do not have adequate respect for the Quarter. For instance, there are many activities taking place in those Meetings on Quarterly Meeting Sunday. ... There are problems with sharing information in organizations that are essentially horizontal. ... Francis Brown suggested that, with Camp Swatara, Caln Quarter is actually quite healthy. ... Blair suggested that these will continue in process.

John Ambler, our visitor from Germantown Friends who is attending Penn Hill Meeting, brought forth a concern about random, suspicionless drug testing in the Solanco School District. He and his family have been seeking exemption on religious grounds from these tests, with great difficulty and no success. Friends suggested that legal assistance may be in order.

Marie Ryan told us about her many activities in

this short quarter. There was a wonderful weekend for middle school students at Camp Swatara, with the help of Harrisburg. There have been many planning meetings for things coming up. One of these is a day planned in Lancaster to train high school students, and others, on ways to counteract military recruitment in their high schools. Marie apologized for the briefness of the newsletter, with minutes that needed slight revisions, which she put together in about 48 hours. There were questions about the Camp Swatara planning committee, with Bobbi Kelly from Lancaster as clerk. Marie will contact her to lend assistance.

Kay Pickering, clerk of the Quarter's nominating committee, told us that, despite contacting several people to replace Blair as clerk of the Quarter, the committee is still searching. They are also looking for a third person from the Quarter to serve on the Yearly Meeting nominating committee. ... Blair said that the clerkship of the Quarter is very easy with Marie's help.

There were 29 Friends present from all Meetings of the Quarter except Chambersburg, Schuylkill, and the Cornwall Worship Group. There were guests from Germantown Meeting and Providence Meeting (Media).

After a couple moments of silence, these minutes were read, corrected, and approved. Meeting for business ended at about 3:15. Our next meeting will be held, February 17, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Herr, Recording Clerk

#### **FROM THE DESK OF THE COORDINATOR**

As this New Year gets off to its cold start, feelings of hope invigorate me and positive energy helps to keep the cold at bay. I feel that we are at the beginning of something new and wonderful. Throughout these past few years, I have felt the need, in our culture and in our Yearly Meeting, for a collective healing; and I believe it has begun. I feel it in the energy and excitement expressed in the culture at large; I see it reflected in the work that Caln Quarter Friends are doing. Peace & Justice initiatives born in Downingtown and Schuylkill Meetings have led to work being done by the larger body of Friends, our Yearly Meeting.

At quarterly business meetings in May & August, Friends united with two Minutes. One, brought forward by Francis Brown, lifelong Downingtown Friend and former General Secretary of the Yearly Meeting, led to development of a

National Ecumenical Peace Conference. Jointly hosted by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, the Church of the Brethren, and the Mennonites, the conference, "**Heeding God's Call: A Gathering on Peace**", will take place at Arch St. Meeting House in January 2009. The steering committee has been meeting regularly and has begun the process of finding speakers. (Calnqm.org includes a link on its home page.)

A Minute condemning the use of torture, brought forward by Schuylkill Friend Barb Quintiliano, moved through the quarterly meeting and on to Interim Meeting. Barb is now project leader for "National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) coordinating group" functioning with the support of PYM's FCNL network. This group is compiling educational materials for dissemination to Monthly Meetings. Learn more about their work and their progress at Winter QMB.

Throughout this past year, our Young Friends have focused on two related issues: Conscientious Objection and Militarism in their schools. In February, they planned and led our quarterly meeting program on Conscientious Objection. In November, more than 50 people attended our **Day of Informed Recruitment Training**. Through **DIRT**, Young Friends grew their community by working with Mennonite and Brethren teens from the Lancaster area. These informative events were multi-generational and demonstrate the creativity, courage and passion of our teens. To see what one person can do to influence the system, be sure to read "*Small Power*" on p4. In this article Sarah Bickel, YAF of Downingtown, shares her experience of influencing the school administration regarding recruiters in the cafeteria.

In October at Sadsbury MM, Robin Harper shared the moving story of his personal journey with 50 years of his War Tax Resistance. Many were inspired by Robin's words as you will see when reading the article written by Blair Seitz, "*Quarterly Meeting Challenged by War Tax Resister*", on p5.

It has been a rich and fruitful year for us. I believe that a corner has been turned and we are at the beginning of a progressive period of our history. I feel honored to have supported this work being done by Friends. Feeling blessed to be a member of this quarter, as always, I look forward to every opportunity to work with you and with our young people.

Marie

**CONTRA DANCE** – This January, Lancaster MM hosted 75 teens and 12 adults at a contra dance. Coordinated by Anne Wallace-DiGarbo and Shane Knudsen with assistance from our coordinator, Marie, the event was a rousing success!

Reports Anne, "Our goals were twofold: We wanted to continue to build a community of youth from churches in Lancaster County; and to offer an experience in contra dance to those unfamiliar with this activity. Contra dance promotes hospitality and inclusiveness in an atmosphere of cooperative fun." After the dance, 17 YFs (from Lancaster & 5 other MMs) and 4 FAPs spent the night at Lancaster MM sharing home-made pizza at midnight and Belgian waffles at 8am. Joseph Moore and Beth Reeves facilitated a discussion on diversity and racism with the overnight group at the 10am First Day School hour on Sunday morning.

### **CAMP SWATARA – "Let Your Life Speak"**

We gather May 2-4 in the beautiful Blue Mountains near Bethel, PA. The annual weekend at Swatara is always a wonderful time for all age groups. If you've never been, consider attending. Some highlights: Workshops are spiritually enriching; outdoor worship in a comfortable setting; elementary children form new friendships; older kids reconnect in the "MS/YF Gathering at Swatara" (register early); ---It is simply a wonderful weekend. Lancaster MM has coordinating responsibility for 2008-09. **To Offer a Workshop:** contact Liz Gates ([elizagates@comcast.net](mailto:elizagates@comcast.net)) or Cindy Hummel ([cynthiahummel@verizon.net](mailto:cynthiahummel@verizon.net)).

**GODLY PLAY WORKSHOP-** Downingtown Friend's (Uwchlan MM), Religious Education Committee will sponsor a Godly Play Workshop, Mar 8, 2008. Melinda Bradley, from West Chester MM, will present, along with another trainer. The workshop is designed to educate and train participants in the theology and methods used in presenting Godly Play. To register, please email your:

**\*\*Name    \*\*Phone Number    \*\*Email Address**  
**\*\*If childcare is needed—name and age of child**

To Sue McKenna at [suemck@verizon.net](mailto:suemck@verizon.net)

This is a brown bag lunch event. We are suggesting that donations be made, so that childcare and the presenters may be honored for their work.

**RE CORNER-** I've had a request to organize a workshop for CQ First Day School facilitators. Sharing resources and curriculum ideas, fellowship, and worship-sharing are among the possible topics. Please send suggestions as I begin to create the vision for our day. Future issues of the newsletter will include your submissions in the **RE CORNER**. Send them to [coordinator@calnqm.org](mailto:coordinator@calnqm.org).

### **"SMALL POWER"** by Sarah Bickel, UMM

I grew up Quaker and have considered myself a pacifist ever since I knew what it meant. I was always bothered by the military, and it would make me so mad seeing the recruiters set up their table outside the school cafeteria with free T-shirts, hats, and basketballs just to attract people. After some thought, I decided that it really wasn't fair for recruiters to be allowed a table in the main lobby of the high school, while college representatives have to meet with students in a conference room. I thought I had heard that there was something about military recruiters being treated equally to post-secondary school options in No Child Left Behind, so I looked it up online to find out exactly what it said. I found that this was true. Section 9528 reads "Each local educational agency receiving assistance under this Act, shall provide military recruiters the same access to secondary school students as is provided generally to post secondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of those students." I knew that every single college representative does not have a table set up during all lunches in the main lobby of the high school, and that did not sound like equal treatment. So I wrote a letter, plainly stating my view of the situation, including the quote from the No Child Left Behind Act. I briefly explained how I don't agree with the military, but I understand that the school must allow the recruiters to enter and recruit at the school. I knew that there was no way I could stop that; however, I plainly explained how our school was not following the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act and I thought it should be changed. Not only did I write the letter to the principal, but I set up an appointment with him. This may not be possible at all schools, but, luckily for me, it was. I brought both the letter I had written and a printed copy of Section 9528 of the No Child Left Behind Act. I talked with the principal for about fifteen minutes, mostly elaborating on the letter I had written. He said that he understood my view and would speak with the other administration in the district.

A few weeks later, the principal sent me an email saying that he had spoken with the superintendent and other administration and they had decided to change their policy. Beginning the next year they were going to have students sign up in the guidance office for a meeting with the military recruiters just as all students do for any college representatives. Unsurprisingly, I was very excited. I sent an email to the superintendent of the district, explaining that I had brought the military recruiter topic to the principal and thanking them for listening to my opinion, taking the time to meet and discuss it, and especially for changing the pol-

icy. I was proud of myself when I left for college at the end of the summer. Unfortunately, in the middle of October, I received a phone call from my sister, a high school junior. She informed me that there were military recruiters, again set up with a table, outside the cafeteria. I immediately called the principal and left a message on his voicemail. I calmly, but assertively, explained who I was and reminded him of our meeting and the outcome of the discussion. I asked him return my call when it was possible, because I wanted an explanation of what was going on. Only a few hours later, the principal of the high school called my cell phone to apologize. He said that he must not have clearly explained the change to the guidance office; and without his knowledge they had set up a table for the recruiters in the lobby. He assured me that it would not happen again, and so far there have been no more problems.

I was, and still am, proud of myself for noticing what was wrong and finding a way to change it. I am also proud of the school for taking my opinion into account. It can never hurt to share your opinion and to try to change a policy that you do not agree with. The worst thing that will happen is that the policy is not changed. In the case of military recruiters in high schools, it is important for the policy to change, and it is imperative that others understand that what is happening is not right.

Do not be afraid to start small and go far. If you talk to the principal and nothing changes, go to higher up administration as well as the school board. If you persist and never give up, change is inevitable.

[Sarah Bickel, now in her 1<sup>st</sup> year at Allegheny University, wrote this for our DIRT workshop.]

### **“Quarterly Meeting Challenged by Testimony of War Tax Resister”** by Blair Seitz, CQ

Robin Harper, a member of Providence MM, reviewed his heartfelt life journey as a war tax resister, to rapt Quarterly Meeting attendees at Sadsbury Monthly Meeting in October of 2007.

At the outset, Robin asked us, "What is conscience? Where does it come from? How is it nurtured? Is a tender conscience a burden or a gift?"

Robin answered by saying, "Conscience is not well schooled unless it is enlightened by the Spirit within." He added, "A conscience that is a gift is a bird that, when pricked, takes action."

Robin said that his becoming a conscientious objector to war had a long development—from childhood. Although his parents were not Quakers or

religiously inclined, they were very respectful of nature, engendering in him an interest in botany, especially during their camping trips in the wilderness. His mother was active in the Woman's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and a pacifist.

In high school during WWII, Robin was asked pointedly by a classmate during class discussion, "What would you do if a German came down the street to shoot you?" Without hesitation Robin answered, "I would not shoot." His spontaneous remark confirmed his evolution to a conscientious objector, a status he later won with a convincing statement before his draft board. Robin did alternative service in St Louis working in low income house building.

Marrying a German-born woman who he met at a work camp, Robin became more sensitive to the devastating results of war. Learning from the direct impact WWII had on her childhood in her homeland nurtured Robin's conscience against war, he noted.

In the next step of nurturing his conscience, Robin said, "I felt that I had joined the human family when I had children." Aware of nuclear tests in Nevada casting contaminants across the land, he and his spouse chose to use powered milk instead of cow's milk, which might have had traces of strontium 90 (radioactive half-life of 29 years) in it absorbed through the food chain.

Robin quoted Gandhi, "In matters of conscience the law of majority has no place." He began war tax refusal in 1956, withholding all federal income tax and, in 1958, began redirecting the withheld money to peace organizations. Until now he has contributed about \$90,000 to 100 different organizations. He does not take charitable gift deductions.

In his unassuming, quiet and sturdy voice, Robin said he could not accept the notion of "paying for war, praying for peace." Robin, who had begun his presentation by singing, "Spirit of the Living God", ended by noting his conviction:

"Wars will cease to exist when men and women refuse to pay for, or profit by, war."

[Blair Seitz, HMM, CQ Clerk]

Please see the "tear off form" on the mailer page. In order to better serve the quarter I am compiling information to update the quarter database and the CQ Newsletter mailing list. Please send form by mail: 205 Elkins Ave. Shillington, PA 19607 or email: [coordinator@calnqm.org](mailto:coordinator@calnqm.org) or use the web.

*Caln Quarterly Meeting*

205 Elkins Avenue  
Shillington, PA 19607

*Caln Quarter of the Religious Society of Friends  
Winter 2008*

Please update my contact information:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

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