

Reading Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

April 2015 Newsletter

From Query #4 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?

April Calendar

Opening Exercises—Worship & Ministry Committee

- April 17 Registration for Camp Swatara closes
- April 18 Saturday Spring Yard Clean-up, 9:30 am, Jim Lamborn, contact.
- April 19 Meeting for Worship. Young Friends travel to Lancaster Meeting
- April 21 Peace and Social Concerns Committee, 7 pm at the meetinghouse. Blair Seitz, contact.
- April 26 Meeting for Worship
- April 28 Faith Festival, 7 pm at the Meetinghouse
- April 30 Outreach Committee meets at the home of Chris Field, 7 pm. David Gross, contact.

May Calendar

Opening Exercises—Care & Concern Committee

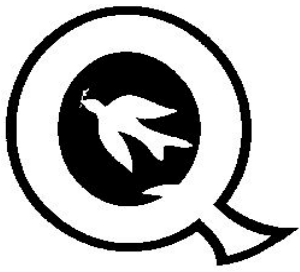
- May 1-3 Camp Swatara. No potluck.
- May 2 Rally at Berks Family Prison in Leesport, PA, 11 am, to protest the imprisonment of children there. Carol Anne Donohoe, contact.
- May 4 Berks Peace Community, 7 pm at the Meetinghouse. John Hoskyns-Abraham, contact.
- May 10 A fundraiser Pancake Breakfast, 9 am given by the First Day School. Meeting for Business follows Meeting for Worship.
- May 12 Opportunity House supper. 6pm. If you would like to join Reading and Exeter Friends to help prepare supper for residents, contact Beth Finlay.

Save the Date:

July 5—11 FGC Gathering 2015. Theme: *Seeking Wholeness*. Western Carolina U., Cullowhee, NC. Registration open now. For more, www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/registration-details.

July 29—August 2 Annual Session 2015. Theme: *Open Our Eyes That We May See*, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA. For more, www.pym.org/annual-sessions-2015

Reading Monthly Meeting, 108 North Sixth Street, Reading, PA - www.readingfriendsmeeting.org



Notes from Reading Monthly Meeting for Business Fourth Month 12th day, 2015

Lee Pickett, clerk Jim Lamborn, recording clerk

Present: Judy Ballinger and Blair Seitz, Ann Bodnyk, Phil and Judy Bohne, Matt Cinelli, Jeanne Elberfeld, Judy Geiser, Charlie Gilbert, David Gross, Fran and Daryl Hoopes, Tom Hughes, Bonnie Knutsen, Betty and Taylor Lamborn, Roger Lawn, Nan and Jim Morrissey, Janet Norton, Marie Ryan, Cys Sica

The Minutes of the Third Month were approved. The Treasurer's Report, which included the first three months of the year, was accepted. At this time contributions are about 45% below budget but parking income is ahead of budget.

Lee Pickett, clerk, addressed the topic of having internet access in the meetinghouse. The issue was first raised by Young Friends, but others have since commented on how helpful internet access would be to enhance our spiritual growth. Charlie Gilbert reported that he is in negotiation with Comcast, trying to establish a package that would cover our telephone service and internet access. Comcast says a monthly fee for the first year would be \$54.95, but it would double the second year. There are also rental equipment charges and installation fees to consider. Charlie hopes to report to the meeting next month with a reasonable plan.

Once again the clerk called for someone to become the third member of the Nominating Committee. Judy Geiser graciously volunteered. The Meeting expressed real appreciation for her willingness to fill this important position.

Committee Reports:

Audit Committee: Cys Sica, clerk, presented the report of the Audit Committee, which includes Roger Lawn and Betty Lamborn. These Friends reviewed the records of the Buckman

Trust and Reading Monthly Meeting and found all to be in good order.

Outreach Committee: David Gross, clerk, reported that the committee will meet April 30 at the home of Chris Field. Janet Lamborn has started a scrap book for storing items posted on the bulletin board. The Committee has purchased supplies for the name tags and urges us all to wear them on First Day. Lee Pickett recommends that we decorate our nametags as that is a good way to start a conversation with someone.

Announcements:

Lee Pickett shared a letter we received from Eggmoggin Reach Monthly Meeting, finalizing the transfer of Suzanne Ruch's membership to that meeting.

Judy Bohne, clerk of Hospitality, said there will be no potluck in May as most people will be at Camp Swatara.

Roger Lawn and Tom Hughes will take the older children at Swatara on a hike Saturday afternoon. Judy Ballinger will work with the younger children.

Janet Norton noted that many Reading Friends attended the memorial service for Irv Hollingshead at the George School.

- from Bonnie Knutsen



Rachael and Tom Hughes hold the quilt presented to them by the Friendly Stitchers in honor of their marriage October 5, 2014. Standing with them are Henry and Devin Hughes.

The squares were made by many Friends including Chris Field, Lee Pickett, Bonnie Knutsen, Janet Lamborn, Betty Lamborn, Pat Jackson and Judy Ballinger and Judy Bohne.

Tom and Rachael were married under the care of Reading Meeting.

Berks Connections needs mock interviewers—May 6 and June 3

Do you have an hour and a half in an evening to spare? Would you like to make an impact on an inmate's chances at rehabilitation?

Inmates in our Ready to Reenter Program at the Community Reentry Center learn how to conduct themselves in interviews, answer interview questions, and compile an effective resume. Once they learn these things, they need to put them into practice. Volunteers are needed to sit down with the inmates and conduct mock interviews. You are given a script with questions to ask and a rubric to rank their responses. Your volunteer service only takes an hour and a half, but it makes a big impact on many inmates who have never even sat through an interview .

There will be session on Wednesday, May 6 and Wednesday, June 3 from 5:00-6:30 pm at the Community Reentry Center. E-mail Danielle Dougherty at dfdougherty@countyofberks.com for more information.

* * * * *

Hold in the Light ... Bob Drayer who has moved to Keystone Villa in Ephrata, PA (address posted). Charlie Gilbert reports "Bob continues to be very happy in his new residence. He is particularly pleased with the food provided, but what really pleases him is the effort the facility is making to get him a piano. They have agreed to pay for the truck and delivery people to bring the piano and set it up. He expects it sometime this weekend. Berto is doing fine and brings Bob a great deal of satisfaction. His diabetic condition continues to be a problem and he is being supervised by the nurses and will be seeing his physician on a regular basis. He would benefit from a card or two to remind him of his friends at RMM."

Also hold in the light Charlie Gilbert who is scheduled for hip surgery on April 22.

Faith Festival —"Focus On Faith"

The Faith Initiatives Committee of the Berks Intercultural Alliance is sponsoring a program , "Focus on Faith", Tuesday, April 28 at 7 pm at the Meetinghouse. Youth will speak on "What My faith means to me and How I practice it – How it Helps me". Refreshments and social time will follow the event.

Other Faith Festival Events include a visit to the Islamic Center of Reading, Friday, April 24 at 6:30 pm, 18-S Noble Street, Reading, and a Labyrinth Walk at Epler's Church UCC, Sunday, April 26 at 2:30 pm

For more information, contact Susan Shelly 610-914-4910 or Diane Trieb at mothertea3@gmail.com

- from David Gross

* * * * *

A Good Read. What possessions spark joy in you and what ones need to be discarded? Marie Kondo's [The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing](#), will teach you a carefully thought-out and tested method for mastering clutter. Underneath the practical message you may find even more valuable ones – ideas that help you sort and arrange your life.

Writing for her Japanese audience, Ms. Kondo's attitude toward inanimate objects (reflecting the Japanese Shinto tradition) may seem peculiar. Nevertheless, this charming and useful book has been translated into many languages and enjoys worldwide appeal. I think it will spark joy in you, too.

- from Bonnie Knutsen



The Friendly Readers discussed [The Return of the Prodigal Son](#) by Henri Nouwen at their April meeting.

They will meet Tuesday, June 30 at the home of Bonnie Knutsen to discuss [All The Light We Cannot See](#) by Anthony Doerr. A National Book Award Finalist, this novel tells the tale of a blind French girl and a German boy whose lives intersect in occupied France as both struggle to survive World War II.

Chris Field, contact.

A Letter from Eggmoggin Reach Monthly Meeting

Dear Reading Friends,

I am writing to acknowledge the transfer of Suzanne Ruch's membership from Reading Monthly Meeting (PYM) to Eggmoggin Reach Monthly Meeting, as per her request. Well we know of Suzanne's commitment to Reading Friends...

Suzanne has not just transferred her attendance to a different Meeting, for as you can imagine, she has embraced the Eggmoggin Reach community with the full force of her love and deep understanding of the tenants of the Religious Society of Friends. When our Clerk moved out of state, Suzanne added to her role of Treasurer by taking on aspects of clerking. Ours is a very small rural Meeting, with attenders in the single digits in the winter months, then swelling into the teens during summer's seasonal visitors. We rely on each other's shared commitment to our required duties. Suzanne has provided much guidance with her typical insightful, inclusive thoughtfulness during this time of "clerklessness"... Her Quaker way of approaching a Meeting's challenges is being well served in our community.

We know that Suzanne's request of transfer from her "home Meeting" was done with much thought, and yes, a heavy heart. We welcome Suzanne with gracious appreciation—her Light does certainly touch us all. As her spiritual growth unfolds, so indeed will ours.

Faithfully yours,
Nancy Appel Boothby, Recording Clerk
Eggmoggin Reach Monthly Meeting

* * * * *

Happy Birthday to Betty Hanf, celebrating her 93rd birthday on April 19 (Paul Revere Day), Judy Geiser, Elizabeth Maille (4/26), Sara Norton (5/1), and Amy Lytle (5/11).

* * * * *

Snack Appeal There are many empty spaces on the snack calendar. Please sign up to provide snacks. Thanks.

Celebrating the life of Irv Hollingshead

[Note: Irving Hollingshead, Jr. died February 28, 2015.]

Irv Hollingshead was a member of Reading Meeting during the 1970's with his wife and four children. Irv was a man of quiet demeanor, soft spoken (unless the topic was a peace concern), and socially reserved. He was a mathematics professor at Kutztown University (then College) and a farmer.

He devoted large portions of his life to organizations reflecting his values. Some of these include: American Friends Service committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Amnesty International, Boys Farm, Ban the bomb, Committee for open occupancy in Levittown NJ, USAID Africa, Solar Energy, Boycott of GE to stop production of nuclear weapons, war tax resistance; Meals on Wheels and helping elderly citizens with tax returns. While at Reading Meeting he was very active in the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and helped co-ordinate Reading Friends participation in a wide variety of demonstrations for peace and social justice.

Reading Meeting held their spring picnic at the Hollingshead working farm for several years. Knowing Irv as a quiet member of Meeting positively interested in each member contrasted to the vehement outspoken dedication to peace was my beginning to understand. Adding his operating a working farm and being a math professor increased the depth of complexity. On a personal level he tendered succinct insight to us when facing a devastating challenge in our lives.

Irv's memorial service at the George School Meetinghouse brought about 200 F(f)riends together in loving celebration of his eventful life. His family, friends, Reading Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, various social and peace communities, and the world is enriched by his life.

-Jim Morrissey

* * * * *

Support Your Membership Support your Meeting membership if you are able. Send your contribution to: Reading Monthly Meeting, c/o Ann Bodnyk, PO Box 148, Kutztown, PA 19530-0148.

Please join us for worship every Sunday: Opening Exercises, 10am, Meeting for Worship, 10:15am. Children leave for First Day School, 10:30am. We are an unprogrammed meeting, a member of Caln Quarter and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. For more information, call 610-372-5345 or visit our web site : www.readingfriendsmeeting.org

The Reading Monthly Meeting Newsletter is published at our website and in print 10 times a year by the Communications Committee. Send news for the May newsletter to Bonnie Knutsen, bknutsen@ptd.net by May 10. Submit address, telephone or Email changes to Carl Knutsen at webagent@readingfriendsmeeting.org.

Clerk of Reading Meeting: Lee Pickett

Treasurer: Ann Bodnyk

Clerk of Trustees: Taylor Lamborn

Mailing Address: PO Box 148, Kutztown, PA 19530-0148

Clerk of Religious Education: Joe Morrissey

Clerk of Exeter Meeting: Paul Kerr