

Reading Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

February 2017 Newsletter

“Each seeker of “God within” is confronted by a unique personal and cultural labyrinth that he or she must negotiate to directly experience God. Because each path is different, it is impossible “to make an ism out of” the journey to experience God.... Perhaps we can agree that we are all dancing around a divine Light that eludes naming.... However beautiful and uplifting Meister Eckhart’s descriptions of his direct experiences of God might be, we cannot have his experience. We can only have our own.”

- *Mystical Experience*, Robert Atchley, Friends Journal, February 2017 p. 12

February 2017 Calendar

First Day, 2/19 Care and Concern Committee meets at 9am in the Penn Room. Opening Exercises led by Jim Hiatt, 10am. Meeting for Worship, 10:15am. Caln Quarterly meets in Downingtown

Thursday, 2/23 Worship and Ministry meets at 6:30pm in the Penn Room. Jim Hiatt, contact

First Day, 2/26 Opening Exercises led by Janet Lamborn, 10am. Meeting for Worship, 10:15am

March 2017 Calendar

First Day, 3/5 Opening Exercises led by Jim Morrissey, 10am. Meeting for Worship at 10:15am will be followed by Potluck. All are welcome. 2-4:30pm Singing Teach-In—see P. 4

Monday, 3/6 Berks Peace Community meets at 7pm at the Meetinghouse.

First Day, 3/12 Meeting for Worship at 10:15am will be followed by Meeting for Business. 3:30pm Vigil at the Family Detention Center

Tuesday, 3/14 RMM and Exeter Meeting prepare supper for Opportunity House folks at 6pm. Volunteers welcome. Beth Finlay, contact.

Tuesday, 3/21 Peace and Social Concerns Committee will meet at 7PM in the Penn Room. Blair Seitz or Peter Frank, contact.

Saturday, 3/25 12:30 - 9:15pm - PYM Continuing Sessions, Arch Street Meeting House. Registration opens 2/17. For more see www.pym.org/continuing-sessions

Key Links

Caln Quarterly Meeting

www.quakercloud.org/cloud/caln-quarterly-meeting

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

www.pym.org

Friends General Conference

www.fgcquaker.org

Friends Committee on National Legislation

<http://fcnl.org>

Caln Quarter Gathers at Uwchlan Meeting Downingtown, 800 E. Lancaster Road February 19, 10am - 2:30pm

10am Opening Exercises in the Schoolhouse

10:30am Meeting for Worship

11:45am Young Friends report on their workcamp experience at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota

12:30pm Brown Bag Lunch

1:30pm Meeting for Worship with attention to Business for Caln Quarter

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



Notes of the Reading Monthly Meeting for Business First Day, February 12, 2017

Janet Lamborn, clerk Jim Lamborn, recording clerk

Present: Judy Bohne, Ann Bodnyk, Heather Ehrlich and John Rivera, Jeanne Elberfeld, Chris Field, Peter Frank, Debbie and Charlie Gilbert, Tom Hughes, Bonnie and Carl Knutsen, Roger Lawn, Nan and Jim Morrissey, Joe Morrissey

Minutes The Meeting approved the minutes of the January 2017 Meeting for Business.

Trustees Committee Ann Bodnyk, filling in for Taylor Lamborn, clerk of Trustees, reported that the committee met on January 20 and considered several items. First, the Trustees are grateful to John Hayden, an engineer and a member of Lancaster Meeting, who came to Reading on January 28 and spent many hours with Taylor and Jim Lamborn and Phil Bohne examining the condition of the 6th Street Meetinghouse. By late February or March John will present his findings on the property and guide us in planning future maintenance. Over the past thirty years, Ann said our meeting has spent about \$150,000 in major repairs.

Secondly, Ann reviewed the situation of a homeless man who occasionally camps out on our property. The Reading police know him and consider him to be mentally challenged but not a threat. They recommend a passive approach. We must keep the doors locked when in the meetinghouse and must not offer him assistance. Jim Lamborn reported that he has seen no evidence of the man being in our yard recently.

Third, the Trustees are concerned for the safety of those who use the meetinghouse. We have no emer-

gency lighting or Exit signs on our main floor. For this reason, no outside groups will be allowed to meet here after dark. The Berks Peace Community will be an exception because they have met here for so long and know our building well. The Hayden property report will help us address this deficiency.

Ann then reviewed the proposed budget for 2017. It is a conservative budget, in part because we lost members this past year and our parking lot revenue has declined. We did earn income on our Vanguard fund which was set up in 2016 from monies transferred from a money market account and CDs. These capital gains were reinvested in the fund. A Friend's fair share in 2017 will be \$850 per person, the same as in 2016.

Nominating Committee Bonnie Knutsen, clerk, presented a corrected 2017 committee list with minor changes. It is posted at our website for anyone who wishes to see it.

Announcements

Please sign up to bring snacks to serve after Meeting. The list is on the bulletin board.

- Bonnie Knutsen

Exeter Meeting News

On March 5, the first Sunday of the month, we will have a Hymn sing starting at 10am.

At 10:30am the Teen and Tween group will meet for a discussion pertaining to the Queries. The group will then join worship.

- Shirley Smith

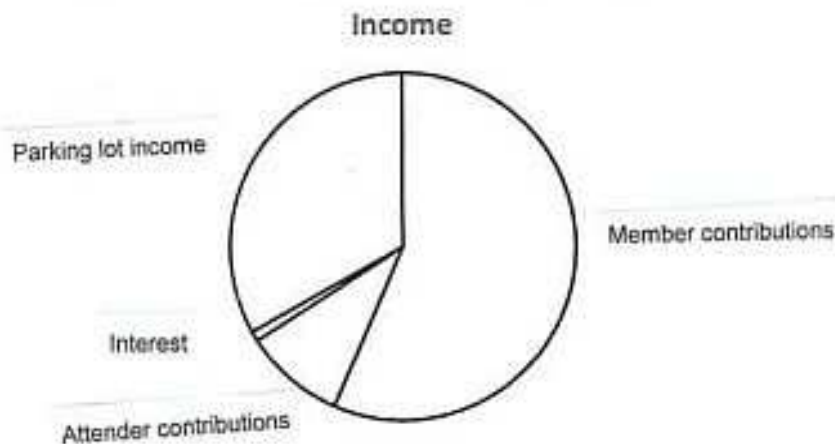
FYI

Reading Meeting maintains a private website where we post our address list, both RMM and Exeter Meeting, our newsletter library, going back to 1988, and financial information.

If you would like to access this private site, contact Carl Knutsen at webagent@readingfriendsmeeting.org and he will email you the instructions which he has written in a handy-dandy, easy-to-follow, little flyer. The address list is kept current throughout the year, so do make use of the helpful feature.

- Bonnie Knutsen

Trustees present the 2017 Budget for Reading Monthly Meeting



Income:

Member contributions 56.6%.

RMM lists 60 persons as adult members, (down from 63 in 2016; of the 63, 38 contributed in 2016).

Non-member attender contribution 9.4%
13 persons in 2016

Parking Lot income (in decline) 33%

Interest 0.9%

Expenses:

Support of Meeting Programs and Members 10.3%

Maintenance of Meetinghouse, property 33.8%
(repairs, insurance, cleaning, equipment & supplies, rear lot taxes, snow/ice treatment)

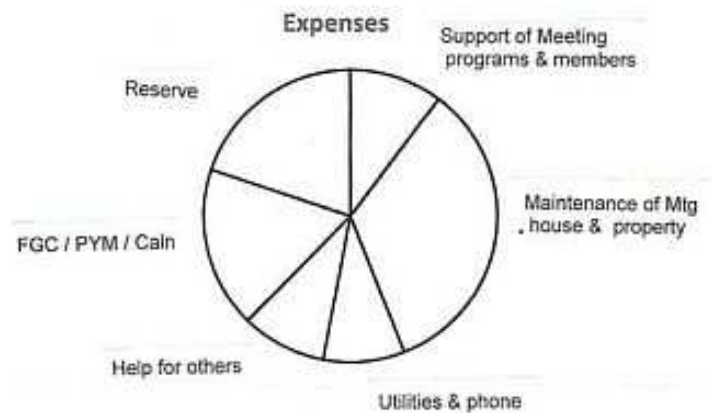
Utilities and phone 9%
(telephone, heating oil, electricity, water & sewer)

Help for others 9.3%
(donations to about 30 charitable organizations)

FGC/PYM/Caln 7.8%

Reserve 19.8%

(for future large maintenance needs and any future operational shortfalls)



On Living Beyond Breast Cancer

- Jeanne Elberfeld

On May 21, 2017 my family is contorting into yoga postures for the non-profit organization, **Living Beyond Breast Cancer** (LBBC) on the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum. Breast cancer has been a part of the fabric of at least 4 generations in my mother's family. As long as we can recall our mothers, aunts, sisters, wives and daughters have lived, and died, with breast cancer.

As you can imagine, life is very different after you hear the words, "you have breast cancer" (or any cancer). It changes the way you think and feel about and see the world, and your body; suddenly a serious threat lies within. Living Beyond Breast Cancer helps women and men better understand their diagnosis, options available, and come to terms with the changes that happen during and after treatment(s). LBBC offers support, educational

outreach and community to those impacted by breast cancer. To find out more about this organization please go to <http://www.lbcc.org/about-lbcc>.

On May 21, my 83-year-old mother (a breast cancer survivor), 2 sisters, my 2 daughters, and myself are going to be in Philadelphia participating in **Yoga on the Steps**. This is a fund-raising, awareness-raising event for LBBC. We welcome anyone to join our team, the "Beckwith Breasties", and find your fullest expression of downward facing dog or perhaps a sensational sun salutation while supporting this worthy effort. In addition to a wonderful yoga workout you will be supporting a community that strives to make life better during and after cancer. If you are interested in joining us, please let me know and I can help you to register.

Invitation to Interfaith Dialogue

The Spiritual Exploration Project is a local spiritual community inviting you to join them in Interfaith Dialogue. One of the purposes of the Interfaith Dialogue is to foster understanding and appreciation for the diversity of spiritual beliefs held by many in our area.

Contemplative Spirituality, a part of the Spiritual Exploration Group, will meet on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 10:00am at Christ Church UCC, 4870 Kutztown Road, Temple. An exploration of "Celtic Spirituality" will be led by Dr. Harry L. Serio.

To learn more about this group, you can contact Dr. Serio at hlserio@aol.com.

Hold in the Light Betty Lamborn, at home recovering from a fall; the Irwin family whose mother, Olive died 1/24, and the family of Pat Jackson who also lost their mother, Ruth Jackson on 1/24.

Peace and Justice Songs Teach-In Come together Sunday, March 5, 2-4:30pm, at the Cherry Street Room at Friends Center for a combined teach-in and jam session where we will learn and lead songs that can be taken to the streets. We'll be working with classics like Step by Step, new hits, rewritten lyrics to familiar tunes, short songs and some multi-verse songs with strong refrains.

Please choose and bring songs you'd like to introduce to the group. We are looking to empower our voices so they can carry our message to those we encounter. The workshop is free and open to all. Potluck snacks are welcome but not required. Address: 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

--Hosted by the Peace & Social Concerns Committee of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting



Happy Birthday to Taylor Lamborn who celebrated his 83rd birthday on February 11. Friends at the Meetinghouse surprised him with a cake and sang Happy Birthday for him at the fellowship time following the memorial service for Olive Irwin. Also celebrating birthdays this month will be Lee Pickett, 2/23 and Carl Knutsen, 2/24.

Support our Meeting Mail 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. First Day School begins at 10:30am. We are an unprogrammed meeting, a member of Caln Quarter and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. For more information, call 610-372-5345, visit us on Face Book or 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 March newsletter to Bonnie Knutsen, bknutsen@ptd.net by March 12. Submit address, telephone or Email changes to Carl Knutsen at webagent@readingfriendsmeeting.org.

Clerk of Reading Meeting: Janet Lamborn
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