

Reading Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

April 2017 Newsletter

“let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:22-25

April 2017 Calendar

First Day, 4/16 Happy Easter. You are invited to a finger-food Easter brunch at 9am. After Meeting for Worship, there will be an Easter egg hunt for the children. Please bring plastic eggs with goodies inside, if you are so led.

Monday, 4/17 Friendly Readers meet at 6:30pm at the home of Chris Field. Bring a poem to share.

Tuesday, 4/18 Registration for Camp Swatara ends. Peace and Social Concerns Committee meets at 7pm in the Penn Room. Blair Seitz, contact

Saturday, April 22 Dinner at the Queen City Diner. Reservations required. (See page 3.)

First Day, 4/23 Opening Exercises, 10am. Meeting for Worship at 10:15am. 3:30pm: Vigil for Berks County Detention (residential) Center

Thursday, 4/27 Worship and Ministry meets at 6:30pm in the Penn Room. Jim Hiatt, contact

May 2017 Calendar

Monday, 5/8 Berks Peace Community meets at 7pm at the Meetinghouse.

First Day, 5/7 Opening Exercises, 10am. Meeting for Worship at 10:15am. NO potluck as this is Camp Swatara weekend.

Tuesday, 5/9 RMM and Exeter Meeting prepare supper for Opportunity House folks at 6pm. Volunteers welcome. Beth Finlay, contact. Also, “Centering on Peace”, 9pm on BCTV.

Saturday, 5/13 Memorial Meeting for Worship for Janet Norton, 1 pm at Maiden creek. Details to follow via Email

First Day, 5/14 Happy Mother’s Day. Meeting for Worship at 10:15am will be followed by Meeting for Business.

Tuesday, 5/16 Peace and Social Concerns Committee meets at 7pm in the Penn Room.

2017 Caln Quarter

**Annual Gathering of Friends, Bethel, PA
May 5, 5pm - Sunday, May 7, 2pm**

Theme: Finding and Keeping Our Voice in 2017

Plenary Speaker: Jon Watts, Director of the online video series, QuakerSpeak

Register by April 18 at:

<http://2017cqmcampswatara.eventbrite.com>

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>

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



Notes of the Reading Monthly Meeting for Business First Day, April 9, 2017

Janet Lamborn, clerk Jim Lamborn, recording clerk

Present: Judy and Phil Bohne, Ann Bodnyk, Heather Ehrlich, Jeanne Elberfeld, Chris Field, Tom Hughes, Bonnie and Carl Knutsen, Betty and Taylor Lamborn, Roger Lawn, John Loomis, Nan and Jim Morrissey and Joe Morrissey

Minutes The Meeting approved the minutes.

Treasurer's report approved. Ann Bodnyk, treasurer, presented a report for the First Quarter (January, February and March). The Meeting liked this format of quarterly detailed reports with short summaries for the other months. Speaking to the parking lot rental delinquency, Taylor Lamborn said the parking lot is fully rented, but two long-time renters are behind in their payments. He expects one to catch up soon, but he is worried about the other.

Camp Swatara is coming soon

Jeanne Elberfeld reminded us that it will Reading Meeting's turn to clerk the Swatara Planning Committee for the next two years. She is willing to do this but needs a co-clerk or an assistant clerk to attend meetings with her and help with all the organizational details. Meetings will begin in September and take place once a month. The four largest meetings of the Quarter, (Downingtown, Lancaster, Harrisburg and Reading) send representatives to these meetings so the tasks are spread out over many, and remain much the same from year to year. Alas, no one volunteered so the call goes out to all in the meeting to consider volunteering to work with Jeanne.

Worthy causes request our support

Three different worthy causes have appealed to the Meeting recently for financial support. They are 1) the Alternatives to Violence Project which supports two men from Lancaster Meeting to travel to Palestine to train peace volunteers, 2) a request from Schuylkill Meeting to support a refugee family seeking asylum in our country and 3) Ramallah Friends

School, Palestine, a well-known symbol of peace to both Palestinians and Israelis. The Meeting decided that all are worthy projects and recommend them to Friends who wish to support them, but the Meeting does not feel sufficiently secure financially at this time to take on these projects.

Committee Reports

Gifts and Loans: Heather Ehrlich, clerk, asked the meeting to revoke membership for someone who accepted an education loan from the Meeting in 2002 and never repaid it or responded to numerous efforts to communicate over the years. After much discussion and a painful silence, the Meeting accepted the recommendation of the Gifts and Loan Committee. Heather will write the letter and she and Janet Lamborn, clerk of the Meeting, will sign it. The committee is also working on updating the education loan policy.

House: Jim Lamborn, clerk, thanked all who came to Spring Clean-up yesterday, especially Roddy Irwin and his assistant who spent four hours pruning the oak tree in the front yard. Roddy will return with his chipper tomorrow to clean up the piles of trimmed wood.

Trustees: Taylor Lamborn, clerk, announced that our neighbor, Trinity Lutheran Church, will bring in heavy equipment this week to repair a roof damaged in the hail storm. The church manager has agreed to take special care that the pavement of our parking lot will not be damaged by this heavy machinery. Taylor recalled that the driveway was rebuilt some years ago and could handle the weight, but the parking lot itself was not.

- Bonnie Knutsen

Exeter Meeting News

Exeter Meeting is pleased to welcome
Deborah Kirlin into membership.
Welcome from us all.

- Shirley Smith

Ann Bodnyk captured the moment a pileated woodpecker was snacking on tasty morsels found in an old oak stump (see banner, page 1). The big bird spends the winter with us and especially favors old growth forests like this one in Ann's backyard.

The Last Shutter is Hung . . Hooray!

Many thanks to Phil Bohn and Peter Frank who hung the last restored shutter on the windows of the 6th Street Meetinghouse this week . This was a multi-year, conservation project that greatly enhances the look of our 19th-century building.

The shutters, then painted a bright green, were taken down 8-10 years ago for repair. The project languished until 2012 when the meeting hired a painting company to paint the exterior trim and shutters that were in good shape. The remaining nine shutters were taken to Phil Bohn's workshop in Womelsdorf.

10' long and probably made of old-growth white pine, the shutters were heavy and difficult to handle. The men wore masks for protection as they removed the many layers of paint that had frozen the louvers in position. Some louvres were rotted and needed repair. Some of the metal hardware was broken or missing. Once down to bare wood, a shutter received a coat of epoxy primer and two coats of Sherwin Williams exterior paint in a dark green color.

As a shutter was completed, it was hung, first along the side parking lot and then the front. Because of the new storm windows, the shutters can no longer be closed. This conservation effort has saved the Meeting \$1,000s in replacement costs and preserves the architectural integrity of our building. Thank you, Phil and Peter.

* * * * *

Quaker Worship Group Meets at Kutztown U.

Rebekah Miller, a member of Harrisburg Meeting, who often worships with us, has formed a worship group at her school, Kutztown U.

The group meets on Tuesday evenings, 7-8pm in Conference Room 323 of the McFarland Student Union. Rebekah says "We worship for about a half hour, then spend time together exploring other worship practices and traditions."

All are welcome to come. For more information, contact Rebekah Miller.

Happy Birthday Judy Geiser (4/16), Elizabeth Maille (4/26), Sara Norton (5/1), and Amy Lytle (5/11.).

* * * * *

Yes We Can Recycle Styrofoam

Most of the local recycling programs will not accept styrofoam, but our meeting has a connection. Roger Lawn will pack up any styrofoam brought in and will take it to the Dart factory in Greenfields for recycling. (You can leave it in the kitchen.) Thanks, Roger.

* * * * *

PSC Dinner re Berks Detention Center and Immigration—April 22

On Saturday evening, April 22rd, 6:30 pm at the Queen City restaurant, the RMM Peace and Social Concerns Committee has planned a dinner (each order and pay for their own meal) with Anton Flores and Carol Ann Donahue to discuss the current status of women and children at the Berks detention center as well as changes in national immigration policy.

Anton Flores, a Mennonite pastor from LaGrange, Georgia, where there is an immigration detention prison for 2,000 immigrants awaiting deportation or legal procedures. Anton has protested and been arrested at the prison several times. As you know, Carol Ann is an immigration attorney here in Reading working with the families at Berks detention.

If you wish to attend this timely discussion, please e-mail Blair at blairseitzphotos@gmail.com or call [610-223-5240](tel:610-223-5240). We are limited to 16 seats. Please make reservations as soon as possible.

* * * * *

An invitation from Blair Seitz:

"Judy and I would like to invite you to Judy's silk painting studio and my photo office on April 22-23 anytime from 10AM - 4PM. There are also seven other studios to visit if you wish.

Thanks, Blair and Judy"

Note: This is part of an Art Plus Gallery Tour. 15\$ tickets are available at Art Plus Gallery, 604 Penn Avenue, West Reading or order online at ArtPlusGalleryPA.com/studio-tour.html

Lancaster Meeting Friends Ask Your Support for Alternatives to Violence Project

A trip to the Middle East, July 4—23, 2017, will be the eleventh trip Joe Moore and Joe DiGarbo have taken to the Middle East (beginning in 2007) where we continue to spread the AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) message through conducting all three workshop levels of training including, most recently, the addition of trauma resilience.

Our mission from the very beginning has been to train and support local facilitators who feel competent and confident enough so that our presence as trainers is no longer needed. We have sought to do this by partnering with local organizations to create a critical mass of facilitators within organizations to support each other internally and offer AVP workshops to their external client base (often children and women) as well as members of the local community. I am happy to report that we have been largely successful in achieving that goal in some locations and are well on our way in others.

While we each have our own personal political views concerning the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, it is AVP policy to keep politics out of the workshops. We work with anyone who is experiencing violence regardless of ethnicity or religion. There are other Quaker avenues for that (i.e. FCNL, AFSC, FGC). We continue to work with Palestinian and Israeli groups separately and occasionally with mixed groups such as Roots and Kids4Peace.

There are now more than twenty trained facilitators in Hebron where we attended an AVP graduation ceremony for more than one hundred participants last year. Our Gaza partners have been working closely with the AVP International organization and are nearing final approval from the

Hamas government for the establishment of an independent, local NGO. Several professionals have been fully trained and are now conducting AVP workshops on their own in other West Bank locations including Ramallah and Bethlehem. Great strides have been made in Israel through our partnership with Matzmichim (The Israeli Violence Reduction Organization).

The purpose of our next trip is to continue to facilitate workshops where needed but to shift to a consulting, strategic support role in places no longer needing us to facilitate workshops ourselves. With that in mind, we are still scheduled to facilitate another round of workshops for our Gaza and Israeli partners. Locally trained facilitators will co-facilitate to enhance their learning.

An additional exciting opportunity has presented itself in partnership with IASC (International Association for Spiritual Care). We have received an invitation to make a presentation to introduce AVP at their annual conference whose subject is: Healing Hatred: Spiritual Challenges in a Context of Political Conflict. The conference is sponsored by IASC and the International Center for Jewish-Christian Relations (JCJR).

Thank you for your ongoing support of holding us and our hosts in the Light and consideration of financial help as you are led.

* * * *

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 May newsletter to Bonnie Knutsen, bknutsen@ptd.net by May 14. 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