

Reading Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

February 2018 Newsletter

"We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount... Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing that we know about living."

- General Omar Bradley, Armistice Day Address in Boston on November 10, 1948.

February 2018 Calendar

- First Day, 2/18 10am** Opening Exercises led by Jeanne Elberfeld **10:15am** Meeting for Worship. Caln Quarter Gathering, 10am-3pm at Lancaster Monthly Meeting
3:30pm Vigil at Berks Family Detention Center, hosted by Harrisburg Brethren Christ Church
- Tuesday, 2/20 7pm** Peace and Social Concerns Committee meets in the Penn Room. Blair Seitz, contact.
- Thursday, 2/22 6:30pm** Worship and Ministry Committee meets in the Penn Rom. Jim Hiatt, contact.
- First Day, 2/25 10am** Opening Exercises **10:15am** Meeting for Worship

March 2018 Calendar

- First Day, 3/4 10am** Opening Exercises led by Taylor Lamborn. **10:15am** Meeting for Worship followed by Potluck Lunch
- Monday, 3/5 7pm** Berks Peace Community meets at Reading Meetinghouse, 7pm. John Hoskyns-Abrahall, contact.
- First Day, 3/11 10am** Opening Exercises. **10:15am** Meeting for Worship followed by Meeting for Business
- Tuesday, 3/13 9pm** BCTV "Centering on Peace" Program. John Hoskyns-Abrahall, contact
- Saturday, 3/24 2pm** Memorial Service for Charmoine Jones. Fellowship follows. Cookies welcome.

A LOVE letter to Reading Friends:

I feel so fortunate to have had an upbringing through the Friends, I thank my mom and dad, Charmoine and Curtis Jones, for finding the Friends and relating so strongly with the message Quakerism brings to us. As my mother has said, the principles of Quakerism were living in their hearts already, without having a name to it, they were so happy to find a group of people who were practicing that which lived in their hearts. It was Harry Althouse who introduced my parents to Reading friends.

Just think for a minute about George Fox. He received this wisdom, totally contrary to what was practiced at his time, and was brave

enough and had the courage and conviction to stand for what he saw in his visions and therefore believed, and now look at how it has grown and spread throughout the whole world and all the good that the world has received through the acts and beliefs of the Friends.

Even though I live further away and am not attending, I still feel very much a part of the Reading Friends. I read every word of the newsletters from Reading and beyond and follow along on the business news. Thanks for keeping me informed.

Warmly remaining your friend,
Kerry V. Lee.

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



Notes of the Reading Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business—Sunday, February 11, 2018

Janet Lamborn, clerk Jim Lamborn, recording clerk

Present: Ann Bodnyk, Heather Ehrlich and John Rivera, Chris Field, Peter Frank, Charley Gilbert, Jennifer Hanf and John Loomis, Tom Hughes, Bonnie and Carl Knutsen, Roger Lawn, Nan and Jim Morrissey, Marie Ryan

Agenda approved as presented.

Minutes of First Month Meeting for Business, 2018, were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The report by Anne Bodnyk, treasurer included the month of December 2017 and a summary of the year 2017. Jim Morrissey expressed his gratitude for the effort Ann puts in to keep our finances in order.

A Minute of appreciation: Janet Lamborn proposed the following Minute of appreciation to the Meeting:

This year marks the 50th year of continuous service of lawn care for Reading Meeting's properties by Taylor and and/or Jim Lamborn ; we profoundly appreciate their hard work and dedication.

Friends enthusiastically accepted her proposed minute and also noted that today is Taylor's 84th birthday. We were sorry Taylor could not be with us today.

Presenting the 2018 Budget: Speaking for the Trustees, Ann Bodnyk reviewed the 2018 Budget, approved by Trustees at their January 28, 2018 meeting. This budget reflects the reality that the Meeting has 53 members, a loss of 6 since last year. It includes funds to improve safety at the Meetinghouse with the installation of panic bars and Exit lights. There are no funds for food for the Opportunity House suppers since we no longer sponsor that service project. Several Friends asked about the status and function of restricted

funds. Along with her answer Ann said she appreciated inquiries and wanted our Meeting financial records to be as transparent as possible.

Caln Quarter Meets February 18 Lancaster Meeting will host Caln Quarter's winter meeting. This is a day-long meeting beginning at 10am and ending at 3pm. The afternoon program will be a play about Benjamin Lay, followed by a Q&A period.

Other matters arising: Committee clerks are asked to write their annual reports and send them to Janet Lamborn. Committees and committee clerks are asked to review the job descriptions and look for possible updates. All Friends are asked to read and look for possible updates to the RMM bi-laws

Announcements:

- The Swatara Planning Meeting gathers in the Penn Room on Saturday, February 17 at 10am.
- The next vigil at Berks County Family Detention Center will be First Day, February 18 at 3:30pm. This month the vigil is hosted by the Harrisburg Brethren Christ Church
- If you would be so led, please sign up to bring snacks. So far, no one has signed up for the rest of the year. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Conference Room.

-- from Bonnie Knutsen

Exeter Meeting News

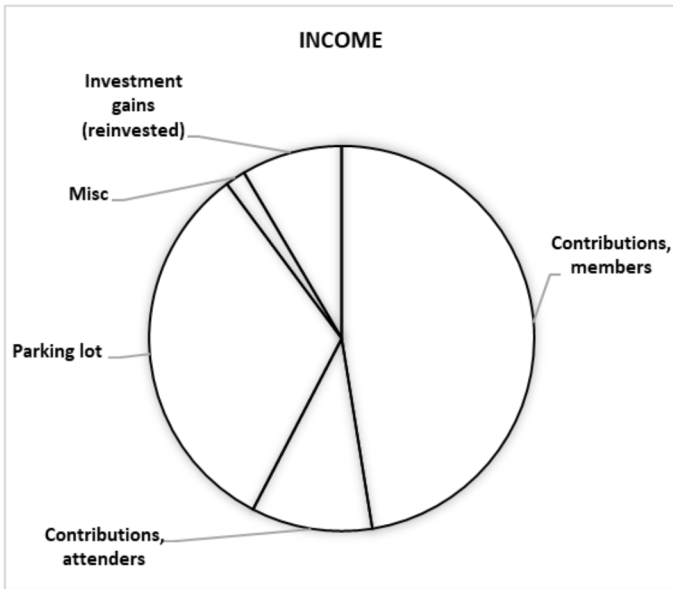
A work day is set for March 10 Saturday. Starting at 9:30. Bring both your favorite tools for indoor and outdoor work.

Adult discussions continue each Sunday prior to Worship. The Queries are a frequent topic.

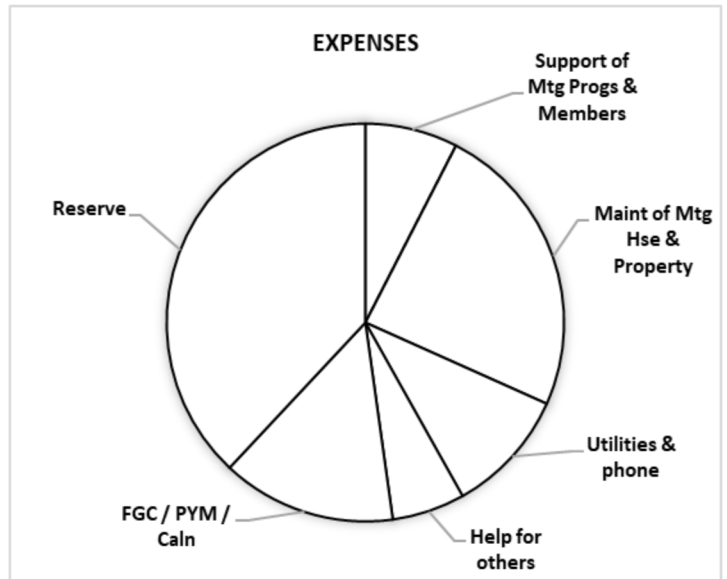
Happy Birthday to Carl Knutsen, 2/24 and Jinchun Ma, 2/24

Opening exercise announcement: Taylor Lamborn will be conducting opening exercises March 4, 2018. His topic is "Berks County's fourth Meeting (in Reading) and the several names by which It has been known." David Dare will provide piano accompaniment.

Approved 2018 Budget for Reading Monthly Meeting



Member contributions	\$28,000	47.5 %
RMM lists 54 persons as adult members (down from 60 in 2017); of the 60 members 37 contributed in 2017)		
Non-member attender contributions	\$6,000	10.2 %
17 persons contributed in 2017		
Parking lot income	\$19,000	32.2 %
Misc.	\$1,003	1.7 %
Checking interest, bldg./lot income		
Investment gains (reinvested)	\$5,000	8.5 %
Total	\$59,003	



Support of Meeting Programs and Members \$4,450 7.5 %

First day school supplies and childcare, library, hospitality, conference assistance for members, material need for members, committee project expenses, Meeting's business expenses including: newsletter copying, postage, FJ subscriptions for new members and college students, safe deposit box rental, new checks, FJ listing, office supplies

Maintenance of Mtg House & Property \$14,250 24.2 %

Repairs, insurance, cleaning, equipment & supplies, rear lot taxes, snow/ice treatment

Utilities and phone \$6,000 10.2 %

Telephone, heating oil, electricity, water and sewer

Help for others \$3,500 5.9 %

Donations to approximately 30 charitable organizations

FGC / PYM / Caln \$8,370 14.2 %

FGC = \$300

PYM = 53 members x \$135 = \$7,155 + \$650 annual fund

Caln = 53 members x \$5 = \$265

Reserve \$22,433 38.0 %

Excess of income to expense – reserve for future large maintenance needs and any future operational shortfalls

Total \$59,003

**A TRIBUTE to my mom,
Charmoine Catherine Mary Schartel Jones
in the light of her connections
to Reading Friends.**

We, as a family, started attending the Reading Friends when I was 6 years old, that would have been 1953 or 1954. My mother very soon started working with the little ones in the back of the meeting house. My dad was soon asked to lead the adult discussion group before meeting. During that time some people didn't even know they were married to each other, since my mother was never able to go to meeting. She felt it was important for the children to have consistency.

So, she taught every week for 6 years. My mother had many stories of the little children, happy ones and those that were sad and missed their mom and dad and how she would rock them in the rocking chair, until they felt comforted. She remembered that she sang a song she made up in the moment which was very soothing.

She also was very involved with hospitality. Hazelette Hoopes told her she should be the clerk. Those of you who remember Hazelette probably can



picture that. At that time Monthly Meeting was on a Friday night and there was a supper before the meeting. My mother would tell me stories of those suppers. For example, someone who was meant to cook wasn't able to show up. My mom was able to throw together a really good meal in a jiffy! She worked really hard in everything she did.

One of her greatest gifts was her LOVE. Her heart was so huge for everyone, and she always was available to help where ever needed. How many times has she given a foot massage to someone in the moment when they needed it? How many hours of prayer did she spend praying for people? Her prayers were powerful! She was such an inspiration to so many people from baby to 100+ years old.

She is now certainly surrounded by her friends, Trine Liv Weyman, Olive Irwin, Janet Norton, Charlotte Irwin Jewel, B.J. Stillwell, Darl Hoopes, and of course, Curtis Jones and many others, as they re-

joice in the Light.

My brother, Larry Jones, and I are so grateful to Reading Friends for all you have done for all of us.

Yours in GRATITUDE, LOVE and JOY,
Kerry V. Lee



Please join us for worship every Sunday. Opening Exercises begin at 10am followed by worship at 10:15am. We are an unprogrammed meeting, and a member of Caln Quarter and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. For more information, call 610-372-5345, visit us on Face Book or at 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 First Day, March 11. Submit address, telephone or Email changes to Carl Knutsen at webagent@readingfriendsmeeting.org. **Changes are posted at the private domain site as soon as they are received.**

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 Exeter Meeting: Paul Kerr