

The Herndon Light



3rd Month 8, 2015 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia 224

March 14	Introduction to Non Violent Communication Workshop 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Meetinghouse
March 15	Adult Discussion: The Godly Play Story of Easter 9:00 AM
March 15	Fauquier Friends Worship Group
March 16	Non Violent Communications Workshop 7-9 PM at the Meetinghouse
March 29	Peace and Social Concerns Committee at Rise of Meeting for Worship
April 4	Spring Clean Up Day 9 to Noon
April 5	Easter Egg Hunt at Rise of Meeting for Worship, followed by Potluck
April 12	Meeting for Business 9:00 AM
April 11	Herndon Friends Sing In 10-4 AM For details: Stacey LaRoy staceybear@alaroy.com 703 599 9390
April 19	Fauquier Friends Worship Group

Query: Education

How can we most effectively foster a spirit of inquiry with a loving and understanding attitude? What effort are we making to be better acquainted with Quaker faith and practices and the beliefs of other faiths? Do we take an active and supportive interest in schools, libraries, and other educational resources in our communities and elsewhere? Do we also see nature as a teacher and a guide? Do I strive to develop my physical, emotional and mental capacities toward reaching my Divinely given potential? How do we prepare ourselves and our children to play active roles in a changing world?

Meeting For Business 2/8/2015

Clerk Kim Glazer gathered 17 Friends for Meeting for Worship with attention to Business at 9:00 AM with a reading of the queries on education from the 2013 draft revision of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice.

Ad Hoc Committee to Nominate the Nominating Committee - Katherine Cole and Margaret Fisher brought forward the names of Harry Tunis as a new member and Bert Curtis for a second term on the Nominating Committee. Their terms will run through 2017. Weez Rothrock and Curtis Jacobs are current members and will continue their terms at the end of 2015 and 2016 respectively. Gratefully receiving the consent of the nominees, the Meeting united with the recommendations of

the committee. The Ad Hoc committee was laid down with thanks to the members.

Ministry and Oversight

Ministry and Oversight – Clerk Cat Wilkins presented the report of the Ministry and Oversight Committee.

In response to a request from Damian Allen and Caitlin Murphy to be married under the care of the Meeting, a Clearness Committee of Cat Wilkins, Amy Shinkman, Melanie Stanley and Tim Stanley met with the couple. They explored the queries of Faith and Practice on their reasons for marriage, being partners, family, responsibilities, finances, children, conflict, spiritual grounding, and relationship to the Meeting. Throughout the process, Damian and Caitlin showed much thought, love, openness, honesty, and respect for one another and their partnership. The Committee found the couple were clear for marriage and recommended that Herndon Friends Meeting take their marriage under its care. The Meeting approved. The Ministry and Oversight has appointed Cat, Amy, Melanie, Tim to serve as Overseers to assure the wedding is accomplished in right order. The wedding is scheduled on October 3rd of this year.

Cat presented the Spiritual State of the Meeting Report for 2014 which was drawn from the worship sharing meeting of February 1, 2014 and other comments delivered later. The report was accepted and will be forwarded to the Baltimore

Herndon Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends holds Meeting for Worship at 660 Spring Street in Herndon each First Day (Sunday). Hymn singing begins at 10:15 am. An unprogrammed Meeting for Worship begins at 10:30 am and lasts about one hour. After worshipping with adults for 10-15 minutes, children and teenagers attend First Day School classes until the end of Meeting for Worship. The building is wheelchair accessible. For more information call the Meeting's telephone answering machine at 703-736-0592. The Newsletter Editor is Terence McCormally. Notices for the Newsletter can be sent to him at 2514 Trophy Lane, Reston, VA 20191 E-mail tmccormally@ffpcs.com. Newsletter assembled addressed and mailed by Meg Wallace **WEBSITE AT www.herndonfriends.org**.

Yearly Meeting Ministry & Pastoral Care committee. A copy of the report is included in the newsletter.

BYM is soliciting feedback on the latest revisions to the Faith and Practice document. The following sections (available on the bym-rsf.org website) are up for review: The Life of the Meeting (Section I, 2) - starts on p. 20; Meetings for Worship (Section I, 3) - starts on p. 34; and Monthly Meetings (Section III, 1) - starts on p. 149. Feedback should be sent to Harry Tunis, with a copy to Cat Wilkins. The comments will be compiled and forwarded to the Faith & Practice revision committee.

House and Grounds – Clerk Dave Whomsley reported that negotiations are proceeding with Dominion Power concerning the utility easement on our property for placement of a transformer to allow undergrounding of power lines in our area. Discussions continue on the use of a bollard versus a curb and the amount of remuneration we will receive.

The committee has a concern for safety issues related to the snow. Sidewalks have been shoveled by committee members, Dave Wilkins and Harry Tunis. Plowing occurs by someone unknown to us, perhaps someone from the local landscaping company.

Spring cleanup day will be held on Saturday, April 4, beginning at 9:00 AM. Friends will be invited to clean out flower beds, spread mulch, and wash windows. A special project this year will be to rehabilitate the picnic table which will require scraping, sanding and painting.

The house and grounds committee is also investigating wi-fi access in the meetinghouse, a new type of telephone system for taking messages and for connection to the fire alarm security system and upgrading the electrical panel in preparation for the planned First Day School shed/clubhouse. Another future goal is to explore having solar panels on the meetinghouse roof.

Peace and Social Concerns: Lynn Witwer reported.

The theme for BYM's Annual Session for 2015 is Living Into Right Relationship defined as "to maintain a state of harmony and balance with ourselves and our families, our communities, our government, and the world that sustains us all." In preparation for Annual Session, The Unity with Nature Committee of BYM asked meetings "to discern on climate change, resource depletion, and environmental degradation."

Prompted by Margaret Fisher, Herndon Friends have considered the impact of farming practices on the environment, on our spiritual welfare, and on the animals with which we share the planet. Margaret continues on her ministry to Friends Meetings to share her leadings about vegetarian and vegan diets. As a contribution to the considerations of the Unity with Nature Committee, it was decided to send a copy of the minute releasing Margaret to her work. Herndon Friends may meet to discern a more comprehensive minute in the future.

Lynn reported that in past years the Herndon Fortnightly Club has donated money to the Meeting in support of our Bikes for the World bike collection. Since we have laid down that project for this year, Lynn suggested that we ask if they would be interested in supporting our Student Peace Awards program instead. The Meeting approved this suggestion.

Meeting for Admitted Students to Earlham College

Herndon Friends and Earlham alumni Katherine Cole and Anna McCormally attended a reception for area students who have been accepted to Earlham college and are trying to decide where to matriculate. Half a dozen students and their parents braved the icy streets of Georgetown to meet at the home of Earlham graduate Catherine Tinsley, where they were able to visit with some young alumni and some older graduates. The students asked questions about study abroad programs, field studies in biology, and language requirements, while their parents asked questions about travel arrangements in and out of Richmond, Indiana, and about sexual assault prevention and alcohol policies. The graduates, including the admissions coordinator, the former US ambassador to Vietnam, a successful businessman with operations in Asia, an advocate for women's access to health care under the Affordable Care Act, a national leader in second language education, a physician, and graduate students pursuing Masters degrees in fiction writing and urban planning, talked about the importance of the Earlham experience and its Quaker roots in their lives.

Game Night for Godly Play Class

Meg Wallace reported that 9 Little Friends attended game night on February 28th at the Meeting House. Jolene Smith and Karen Williams provided additional FAP (Friendly Adult Presence)

Herndon Quakers in Beijing

Some of you will recognize me from the photograph on the wall in the kitchen area of the Meeting House. It seems like I've been gone so long – over five years now --with only two trips to the United States a year. But my wife, Dorothy, and I have been very busy in Beijing, developing what we now think is - almost certainly - the only after school education programs in Beijing run on Quaker principles.

Our mission is to prepare students for middle school, high school, college and university in the United States and United Kingdom. Our facilities, now with five learning rooms, are in the vibrant university area of northwest Beijing. We are surrounded by 26 universities and colleges of various types and our students are from the major university affiliated schools. They are smart, talented and industrious.

Unlike many facilities in Beijing, we don't teach English. The students come to us with higher aspirations. They are usually fluent or nearly fluent already and want help with western culture, literature, history, and often geography, which doesn't seem to be taught very well. Occasionally we help with physics or math, but usually we just help students understand the questions and issues better using English. Once they get the language, their ability to solve problems is usually well above mine.

The Quaker dimension is that we insist on respect for the children and teenagers in the face of unrelenting pressure from schools, some parents (not all – many understand that children develop at different speeds and ages) and general cultural pressure for high test scores, SAT scores, etc. The pressure is understandable in a country with 1.3 billion people. How do you stand out from a crowd where so many people are intelligent based on a distribution of population numbers alone?

Our company is known increasingly for a nurturing approach to our students. Our classes, with no more than three or four students, are filled with laughter, art, music, games, etc. in addition to a fairly demanding academic program designed for each student's unique requirements. It's a pay as you go program, and the costs are kept low enough for almost any family that gives education a reasonably high priority. But don't forget that, within a one child family, financial support usually comes from two parents and four grandparents. Our students now span an age range from 4 – 18 years old. Last year our rising college students went to Cornell, Edinburgh, UC Santa Barbara. This year we are hoping for an acceptance at Haverford for a young woman who plans to follow her parents into medical research. Another has applied to William & Mary and UVA. Another

student has applied to Parsons and Rhode Island Schools of Design – which are super competitive, so I'm spending time finding alternatives. The US is rich in education resources.

We have two students at Westtown Quaker School. (one child and six funders make that much easier to afford.) They are doing well there. The academics are tough and they tell me they really like the weekly Meetings that are part of Quaker life at the school. And, of course, many students will stay in China for undergraduate work, and attend post-graduate programs in the States and Europe.

Right now our biggest challenge is finding mature teachers. Our younger native English speaking teachers are excellent, but they tend to move on quickly as their careers develop. We are very interested in older teachers, perhaps retired (like I thought I was going to be!) who might like to do something totally different and very rewarding. Very best and see you in late April,

--Bob Fonow

Birdsong

Birdsong brings relief to my longing.

I am just as ecstatic as they are, but with nothing to say!

Please, universal soul, practice some song, or something, through me!

Jelaluddin Rumi, 13th century

It Takes A Village Sandwich Shop

The First Day School Classes do most of the work to make all those sandwiches and lunch bags for the homeless shelter. It's impressive to watch the junior young friends lay out the bread, slap on the cheese and meat, bag and label the sandwiches, and box them up, while the Godly Play students stuff the lunch bags. But they can't do it alone. Special thanks this month to **Maria Brinza** who did the shopping to provide the sandwich making perishables, and to **Abby Compton** who got everything delivered to the shelter after meeting.

Recorder's Report

Cathy Tunis compiled Herndon Friends Community Statistics report for 2014. As of December 31, 2014 HFM had 69 adult members, 24 associate members (under 21) and 57 attenders, making a total of 150 members and attenders, up from 139 in 2013. In 2014 we recorded 3 new adult members and 2 new associate members, accepted the resignation of one former associate member, and had a net gain of 8 new attenders. There are 43 children registered in the First Day School program.

Brief Notes

- The Care Coordinating Committee is available for Friends in need. If you need assistance because of an illness or other emergency, contact Abby Compton, Clerk, at abbey.compton@verizon.net; or Priscilla Chamlee at dandpchamlee@gmail.com; or Fred Cresson at cresson4@verizon.net, or Stacey LaRoy at staceybear@laroyfamily.com or Margaret Rogers at margrog@juno.com

There are very few non-Christian records of the life of Jesus. One of these is the work of the Roman Historian Josephus, who mentions Jesus three times. The most detailed one is this:

About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Christ. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.

Flavius Josephus: *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 18, Chapter 3 About 93 C.E
(Remember: Josephus was a Jewish traitor, who went over to the Romans and volunteered to write a history for the Emperor. His manuscript was copied into Greek, which was then recopied by Christian monks for a 1000 years until we get the oldest preserved copy from 1100 C.E.)

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