

The Herndon Light



10th Month 23, 2015 A Newsletter of Herndon Friends Meeting - Quakers - Reston & Herndon Virginia

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November 1	Potluck at Rise of Meeting For Worship
November 8	Meeting for Business 9:00 AM
November 8	Sandwich Making as part of First Day School
November 8	Thanksgiving Basket Assembly for Cornerstones at Rise of Meeting For Worship
FRIENDS: PLEASE DONATE TOWARDS OUR GOAL OF 60 Baskets (About \$50 for a whole basket)	

Query: Diversity

“Does your vision of a just society include people living their lives without fear of discrimination based on who they are, what they believe, and whom they love?”

Are we willing to be in communion with each other, open to our differences yet secure in the one Spirit that calls us all to be Friends?

Do my decisions reflect the voices of people of color, people of different sexual identities, people of different ages and economic conditions? Do I take the risks that right action demands?

Do I seek out and listen to perspectives that promote equal access, inclusion, and welcome for people of all cultures and backgrounds?

How do we work toward creating a community of different people, rather than being a community that just lets different people in?

Do we take the time to see what we want to become as people and as a global community, and do we humbly acknowledge that we have some work to do?”

Meeting For Business 10-11-15

Clert Kim Glazer gathered 15 Friends for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business with a reading of the query on Diversity. Friends responded out of the silence.

Cat Wilkins presented the report of the Ministry and Oversight committee.

A Clearness Committee of Ministry & Oversight, consisting of Katherine Cole, Meg Wallace, and Fred Cresson, met with Jodi Beatty. The committee found her clear for membership. **The Meeting approved her membership and her name will be officially recorded by the Recorder.** M&O will further discuss the possible membership of Jodi's children with her at a later time.

The Nominating Committee is beginning it's work in earnest, and Friends may be expected to be

contacted in the next month about their willingness to participate in the Meetings committees. As part of the preparation for this important work, the adult discussion session on October 18th was devoted to the work of the committees.

Harry Tunis reported for the House & Grounds committee and the Trustees. The sale of the easement on our property for use by Dominion Virginia for a transformer has been approved by the Town of Herndon and the Fairfax County Court. Payment of \$5000 from the Town Attorney will occur within the next few weeks.

Margaret Fisher reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on the Greening of the Meetinghouse. Some Friends were enthusiastic about bringing our own utensils for potluck, along with cloth napkins. A specific suggestion for purchasing a bicycle rack and asking House and Grounds to implement this was discussed. **The Meeting approved referring this issue back to the Greening Committee to discuss with House and Grounds for further investigation. The Meeting accepted the Greening Committee's report and supported their suggestions for implementation.** The committee stressed that the suggestions for greening activities are meant to be educational for everyone to put into practice in their personal lives as well.

Recorder Cathy Tunis described her project archiving the Minutes and other Meeting records. The Minutes of Meeting for Business from 1981 (the year Reston Friends became a Preparative Meeting) through 2015 have been compiled. All minutes are now filed in four large notebooks by year. Electronic copies are filed in a Dropbox folder, with separate folders for each year from 1995-2015. Prior to 1995, Minutes are only available in paper. Since the Swarthmore Historical Library says that paper copies are the best archival copy, minutes from 1995 on were also printed and filed on acid free paper. Thanks to Terence McCormally, Fred Cresson, and other

sources for providing files. There are also separate notebooks for all State of the Meeting reports from 1980 on and for lists of Officeholders and Committees for each year. We already had a complete file of Newsletters in the file drawer at the Meetinghouse. Future projects might include copying and/or scanning all of these files for sending to the historical library. For now, they will be kept at the Meetinghouse for anyone to consult

Caitlin Murphy and Damian Allen

Cat Wilkins reported on the marriage of Caitlin Murphy and Damian Allen under the care of Herndon Friends:

At 3:00 p.m. on October 3, 2015, approximately 100 friends and family gathered at Hopewell Friends Meeting in Clear Brook, VA, for the wedding of Damian Allen and Caitlin Murphy. Although it was a cold and rainy day, the Meeting House was filled with the Light and love of all present. Cat Wilkins welcomed all and explained to everyone how the proceedings would occur. The overseers – Cat Wilkins, Amy Shinkman (along with Ebba Shinkman), Melanie Stanley, and Tim Stanley – sat on the back bench behind the benches designated for the bridal party, facing the remainder of the guests sitting across and on either side. The bridesmaids and groomsmen/woman entered, sitting directly in front of the overseers, followed by Damian and his parents, Sharon and George, who all sat in the first row. Caitlin and her parents, Dick and Julie, came down the staircase together and Caitlin sat next to Damian with her parents at her side. The meeting fell into silence, until Caitlin and Damian felt moved to rise and exchange their vows and rings. They then signed the certificate, which was displayed in the middle of the Meeting room. Caitlin's sisters, Kristen and Shannon, read the certificate aloud.

Many messages were spoken, often relating to the couple's unity and friendship. There were also many present who had known Caitlin and Damian throughout their lives. One message spoke of the appropriateness and simplicity of the Meeting House as the perfect setting for the union. Another prayed that everyone could have someone believe in them the way Damian believes in Caitlin. There was palpable joy and much humor throughout the Meeting. After about 30 minutes of messages, there was a sense that the Meeting was ready to close and all shook hands. The family members then signed the wedding certificate first, followed by the remainder of the guests.

Amy Shinkman signed the official marriage license issued by Prince William County.

The wedding was followed by a delightful reception at Cloverdale Barn in Winchester, VA. Guests enjoyed delicious food and great music. Blankets were provided to assist in extra warmth. Damian, Caitlin, and all the guests did not let the rain and cold dampen their spirits!

Autumn

The leaves are falling, falling as if from far up,
as if orchards were dying high in space.
Each leaf falls as if it were motioning "no."

And tonight the heavy earth is falling
away from all the other stars in the loneliness.

We're all falling. This hand here is falling.
And look at the other one...It's in them all.

And yet there is Someone, whose hands,
infinitely calm, holds up all this falling.

Rainer Maria Rilke translated by Robert Bly

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