



# Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

*Newsletter No. 567*

*April-May 2010*

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## **CALENDAR**

First-day - 8:00-8:55 AM - Early Meeting For Worship

- 9:10-9:45 Hymn sing in the meeting room. All are welcome to sing or listen.

- 10:00 AM Meeting For Worship. Children worship with us for the first 20 minutes, then go to First-Day School classes

Second First-day - 11:35 or so - Meeting For Worship For Business

Third First-day - Cooperative Meal

First First-day - 10:00 AM - Meeting For Worship, Cornwall Worship Group, Paymaster's Building, Cornwall Manor

Last First-day - 10:00 AM - Meeting For Worship, Willow Valley Worship Group (Joyce Collins 464-6363 for more information)

## **FORUMS**

April 25 - Interfaith discussion on encountering bigotry (see below)

May 2 - Jim Cason of FCNL on the Peace Testimony for the 21<sup>st</sup> century (see below)

May 9 - Meeting for worship for business

May 16 - Social Time & cooperative meal

## **ACTIVITIES**

Every Saturday - 11:00-Noon - Vigil For Peace in Lancaster. For more information, call Charles Lane 394-5912

Sun. April 25 - 9:00 AM - First-day School Committee in the basement

Sun. April 25 - 10:00 AM - Sun. April 25 - 10:00 AM - Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley

Mon. April 26 - 7:00-8:30 PM - Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

Wknd April 30-May 2 - Camp Swatara family weekend (see below)

Sun. May 2 - 8:30 AM - Peace & Social Concerns Committee in meetinghouse

Sun. May 2 - 9:00 AM - Environmental Committee in meetinghouse

Sun. May 2 - 10:00 AM - Meeting for worship at Cornwall Worship Group

Sun. May 2 - 12:50-1:50 PM - Peaceful Families Subcommittee in meetinghouse

## **- ACTIVITIES CONTINUED -**

Sun. May 2 - 2:00-4:30 PM - Shape-Note singing in meetinghouse

Mon. May 3 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Mon. May 3 – 7:00 PM – Worship & Ministry in meetinghouse  
 Tue. May 4 – 7:15 PM – Care & Counsel in meetinghouse  
 Sun. May 9 – 11:35 AM – Meeting For Business  
 Mon. May 10 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Tue. May 11 – Deadline for May-June newsletter  
 Sat. May 15 – 9:00 AM-4:00 PM – Eco-justice event at Burlington (NJ) Meetinghouse (see below)  
 Sun. May 16 – 11:30 AM or so – Cooperative Meal in the meetinghouse  
 Sun. May 16 – 4:00-7:00 PM – Movie *Departures* sponsored by alternative burial group (see below)  
 Mon. May 17 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Tue. May 18 – 7:30 PM – Spirituality & Science in meetinghouse (see below)  
 Mon. May 24 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Wknd. May 28-31 – Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology at Lebanon Valley College (see below)  
 Sat. May 29 – 6:30 PM – Healing Racism Group with pot luck meal (see below)  
 Sun. May 29 – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley  
 Mon. May 30 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Sun. June 20 – 11:00 AM - Meeting for worship in Old Bart meetinghouse (see below)

**LANCASTER MONTHLY MEETING  
 THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
 HELD AT LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA  
 ON FOURTH MONTH 11**

At about noon, after a brief period of silent worship, Clerk Joseph Moore took up the business of Meeting. The agenda was reviewed and approved, and minutes for Third Month were approved as read.

**Worship sharing on queries on care of the meeting community.**

Queries

1. Do all adults and children in our Meeting receive our loving care and encouragement to share in the life of the Meeting, and to live as Friends? Do we truly welcome newcomers and include them in our Meeting community?
2. Are love and unity maintained among us? When conflicts exist, are they faced with patience, forbearance, and openness to healing? Are avenues for exploring differences kept open? To what extent does our Meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?

[Source: PYM *Faith and Practice*]

Responses

• I'm impressed by how our Meeting is free of factions and special interest groups. I think

newcomers are welcomed. It's gratifying to see newcomers take leadership positions and feel they are a real part of our Meeting.

- I've been thinking how it is for those whose first language is not English, like our Friends from Cuba. It is difficult for them. I'd love to see some kind of responsibility taken by some committee for working with such people, especially Spanish-speakers. I appreciate what I see but I also see room for something more.
- The second query is timely because it's about how we deal with conflicts, which is a problem rooted in our humanity. Dealing with conflicts is costly in terms of energy. Some have difficulty even recognizing conflict, but for those wounded by conflict, it goes on long after the conflict is over. I think we'll always struggle with recognizing and dealing with conflict. It requires loving engagement and not being ignored.
- Years ago a Friend and I had a dust-up and immediately a committee was formed. That was so helpful, because no one on the committee took sides or blamed anyone. It was a wonderful experience.
- Today as I went out the door a family was behind me and I heard their little kid say, "But I *want* to go to First Day School! I want to learn more!" That was very heartening.
- Do we truly welcome newcomers into our

community? I think we do, as a community, but how do we do as individuals? I think sometimes there's a hesitation to make space in our individual lives, for example, by inviting someone to dinner or getting to know children. We need to see what space there is in our lives to really and truly be interested in each other.

- As a newcomer and visitor, I want to say how I was immediately directed to the right person and invited to join in activities. I think you are doing a wonderful job.
- When I first came to this Meeting I was impressed by the simplicity of the environment and the straight talking. And I quickly joined a committee to welcome a Bosnian family, which led to much in my life. As for conflicts, sometimes they are unpleasant, but in my own experience there was always a need to move toward reconciliation, not to let it hang. I'll always move toward reconciliation, and I attribute this to the nature and spirit of this Meeting.
- The Deepening & Strengthening experience revealed that we have a very vibrant, very strong community. We expect so much of ourselves and we do so much, we can magnify shortcomings and conflicts. I was led to convene the Deepening & Strengthening Committee, which was a wonderful experience which led me to explore what is the power of this Meeting, not just to recognize shortcomings but to look at the power of the Meeting throughout the community beyond the meetinghouse. I don't have a full sense of this power but it is large, and it is great.

Clerk thanked us for the comments. He then told us how the queries are generated each month by Worship & Ministry Committee. They use both PYM's *Faith and Practice* and the "faith and practice" of other Yearly Meetings. It is a discernment process with the final queries decided by the entire committee. Clerk thanked the committee for this work. He also reminded everyone that Worship & Ministry meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the meetinghouse, and that they are open to all.

**Treasurer's report.** Clerk reported for Treasurer Karen Zimmerman that income for January 1 through March 31, 2010 totaled

\$10,939 and expenses totaled \$17,768, which puts us behind by \$6,829. Though this is similar to the situation at the same time last year, Karen and Clerk encourage us to make regular contributions and to make contributions sooner rather than later.

**Amanda Kemp's ministry.** Clerk brought a minute of support for Amanda Kemp's Theatre for Transformation ministry. Before reading the minute, he invited Amanda to tell us about her ministry.

Amanda told us that she does this work full-time but that financial support has become increasingly difficult and is not sustainable. She feels that to charge admission would make the Theatre unreachable to many of those she wants to reach. Therefore she asked Meeting to form a guidance and accountability committee to provide guidance for her ministry and to develop a budget and apply for and disburse grants. This would be an interim committee to enable her to apply for a grant to PYM's Shoemaker Fund, which gives grants only to non-profit entities, not to individuals. The deadline for Shoemaker is April 15. Amanda will also be moving forward with obtaining nonprofit status as a 501(c)3 corporation.

Several Friends spoke of the complicated legal issues in the proposed arrangement, especially in regard to liability exposure resulting from taking on supervisory authority and also insurance costs. While there was unity in supporting Amanda's ministry, there were many questions about the risks to Meeting involved in her proposal.

Clerk then read the proposed minute of support, which included statements on funding and the guidance and accountability committee. At that point Amanda said she withdrew her request for a guidance and accountability committee and that she will not apply for a Shoemaker grant, but that she would appreciate having a minute of support from Meeting. Meeting then approved the minute in a revised form which dropped the statements on funding and a guidance and accountability committee.

**Minute of support for the Theatre for Transformation ministry of Amanda Kemp:** Lancaster Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends hereby minutes its support for the

Theatre for Transformation, which is the outward embodiment of Amanda Kemp's ministry. To this end, we commit to providing guidance and nurture for her leading, which is to heal the wounds of racism and to cultivate wholeness within the Religious Society of Friends. Through Amanda's ministry we are reminded of the words of Ayesha Clark-Halkin Imani, who said in part: "As a Black Quaker, I see the Inner Light as the great liberator and equalizer able to erase the psychological deficits of racism...the power in us that can never be overcome by the darkness of fear and hatred...the power in us which gives unfathomable capacity to love and forgive." We believe Amanda's call to this work has risen in part from her spiritual grounding as a Quaker who recognizes the significance of the testimonies of Peace, Equality and Integrity as they have shaped and influenced her work.

Because of the late hour, Meeting approved deferring the remaining items on the agenda.

After a brief period of silent worship, Meeting for Business ended at about 1:50 pm. There were 35 present.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Moore, Clerk  
Maria Cattell, Recording Clerk

**Present:** Adele Berardi, Andrea Carty, Maria Cattell, Joseph DiGarbo, Faith d'Urbano, Jean & William Eaton, Erika Fitz, Albert Geier, Grayfred & Lois Frey Gray, James Herr, Charles & Millicent Holzinger, Carole Jeffers, James Kallish, Amanda Kemp, Charles Lane, Thomas Latius, Elise Leytham, Cynthia & Robert Lowing, Shirley Mast, Haydn McLean, Anna & Joseph Moore, Robert Neuhauser, Ernest Nute, Carl Perry, Joanna & Loren Sadler, Deborah Spence, Raymond Trayer, Anne Wallace DiGarbo, Erma Weaver.

### EXPECTED

**BIGOT FRIEND** – The Forum today is an Interfaith Discussion on Encountering Bigotry: Befriending Projecting Persons. You will notice we are joined during worship by some folks from the Community Mennonite Church and the Unitarian Universalist Church in Lancaster. Janneke van Beusekom will lead the discussion. Following the program all are invited

to a community lunch. Join us for the entire morning or any part that fits your schedule.

**CAMP VISIT** – Although the registration period ended quite a while ago, you can still participate in at least some of the Quaker Family Weekend at Camp Swatara next Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 30, May 1 & 2. It's about an hour drive north of here, so you may not want to go just for the campfire Friday evening. But you can spend all Saturday there, if you'd like. Take some food for yourself and your kids. Join the meeting for business. Listen to Arthur Larrabee. Attend a workshop. See the talent show—even join in. Participate in the contra dance. It's all there. And it's going to be a lot of fun. There's always room for a couple more.

**LOBBY MASTER** – Our forum next week, May 2, will be presented by Jim Cason, a journalist, non-profit organization leader, and lobbyist with the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) in Washington DC. He'll speak on "A Peace Testimony for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" to provide some perspective on how FCNL sees their work as drawing on the faith and practice of Friends, why this work is important at this moment in history, and to offer some perspective on helping congress take steps in the direction of peace. At FCNL, Cason directs and oversees the campaigns, communications and community building work. His areas of expertise are US foreign policy, lobbying, peaceful prevention of deadly conflict, Africa, Latin America, and the media. Along with many of the staff at FCNL, he participates in a blog; his most recent posts include "A Modest Step on Nuclear Weapons" and "Pentagon budget: \$33 billion more for Afghanistan this year."

[www.fcnl.wordpress.com/author/jimcason/](http://www.fcnl.wordpress.com/author/jimcason/)

Cason is a graduate of Earlham College. He grew up partly in West Africa, where his parents were Methodist Missionaries teaching at a college in Liberia. Before coming to Washington, he worked in Africa developing anti-apartheid campaign materials and ran projects in filmmaking, supervised a weekly television program, and implemented campaigns such as Unlock Apartheids Jails and the one Person, One Vote Campaign.

**JUSTLY GREEN** – Come explore a vision of

eco-justice and its relationship to Quaker testimonies, May 15, 9am-4pm at the Burlington Meetinghouse/Conference Center, about an hour and 45 minutes away in New Jersey. Help discern priorities and create a framework for corporate action on behalf of our planet and its people. Continental breakfast, lunch and childcare will be provided. It's free! Sponsored by PYM's Peace & Concerns Standing Committee. More info: [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org) (under "events"), 215-241-7216 or email Michael Gagné at michaelg at pym.org (or ask Maria Cattell, who serves on the Peace & Concerns SC).

**FUNERAL MOVIE** – As a result of the engaging informational Forum several weeks ago, Meeting is currently in the process of forming a working group for home funerals and green burials for Friends of LMM. As a "kick-off" to the formation of this group, there will be a showing of the DVD *Departures* to anyone who may be interested in participating with this group, or for anyone who is simply interested in watching a dynamic, moving foreign film about a young Japanese man who is "called" to a career preparing "the departed" for funerals and burials. This movie event will be on Sunday, May 16 from 4:00-7:00 in the community room. Please join us for this viewing—and tea! Bring a snack to share if you feel so led. Facilitators: Debra Raudenbush: deb\_raudenbush at cocalico.org, Dave Morrison: dmorrison3091 at comcast.net, Debby Spence: dlspence at verizon.net

**QUANTUM SPIRIT** – The Spirituality and Science study group will meet at 7:30 on May 18 in the meetinghouse. The group will focus on Part Four (stories) of the book, *Quantum Theology* by Diarmuid O'Murchu. Part Four includes Chapter 8 (In the Beginning) and Chapter 9 (Stories Generate Meaning). All are welcome to join the discussion. If you have any questions, call Adele Berardi 391-8915.

**PSYCH SPIRIT** – Since 1943 Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology has gathered on Memorial Day Weekend to provide a respite for individuals of all spiritual and religious backgrounds who wish to delve more deeply into their inner world. This year's plenary speaker at FCRP, Jeff Kripal, a scholar of comparative mysticism, will explore a submerged,

but very old and very powerful American story: the story of the divine spark or absolute integrity of the individual human soul, and its direct, unmediated relationship to the divine—what has come to be called mysticism or spirituality. Participants also choose an Interest Group for the weekend; topics include discussion, art materials, writing, dreams, or body work to process and integrate insights. Opportunities to socialize and recreate, as well as to worship with Quakers, are also offered. May 28-31, Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA. Conference information and on-line registration at <http://fcrp.quaker.org>

**ANTI-RACIST DINNER** – The next meeting of the Friendly 8 group which is discussing the book, *Fit for Freedom not for Friendship* (which also doubles as our monthly meeting of the Healing Racism Working Group) will be held at 6PM on Saturday, May 29th at Deb Hewes home. This is a change from our usual meeting time which is typically the third Saturday of the month.

**LITTLE OLD HOUSE** – There's a lovely old Quaker meetinghouse, built in 1826, that's close to Christiana, on the corner of Quaker Church Rd. and Upper Valley Rd. in Sadsbury Township. It has not been the home of an active Meeting since 1924, but on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in June, 6/20 this year, there is the annual meeting of the Bart Historical Society, which begins with a meeting for worship at 11:00. Afterwards there is a picnic lunch in the lovely grove around the building, and then, at 2:00, meeting for business. Find out more at [www.calnqm.org/bart.htm](http://www.calnqm.org/bart.htm)

**CAMP SIGNUP** -Camp FoxTales is building steam. It's scheduled to take place July 12-16, mostly in and around the meetinghouse from 9:00-2:00. See the round table for the sign-up sheet. For more information call Beth Hernon-Reeves 295-3706 or Andrea Carty 285-3830.

## ABOUT

**SUMMER FUN** – What should a Meeting teach its children? What gifts of yours could help to make those learnings possible? ...During the summer, as our teachers take time to recharge and gather new ideas, programming for the children aged 4-12 becomes

the responsibility of the larger Meeting. Please consider leading a lesson or activity for one or two First Days this summer. One Friendly 8 Group, "Right Relationship," has discussed engaging the children on the subject of their group. Might your Committee or Friendly 8 group consider doing the same? If we spread the work around, no one person becomes sapped and consistently misses Meeting for Worship, while the children benefit from a variety of experiences and relationships with different Meeting adults.

First Day School meets from 10:20-11:15 a.m. (or the end of announcements) and is held in the Community Room during the summer. We need to cover June 6-Aug 29. Activities could include stories, music, crafts, outside games—whatever activity seems best to convey the lesson. With the support of Worship & Ministry, Erika Fitz will coordinate teachers for the summer session. She offers to meet a week or more before to help brainstorm and plan the lesson, and even to be on hand as support during the lesson, if requested. Please contact her at ef173 at yahoo.com or 222-9646 (day/cell) 910-4201 (eve's/home) to sign up. Thanks.

**DIRTY HANDS** – Starting in May, we will again be having gardening party workdays on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, from 8:30 to 12:00. The first one will be May 15. Anyone may come to help; you don't have to be on the committee to join in the fun. This is a great chance to get to know people, learn something about landscape gardening, and help to beautify the meetinghouse grounds all at the same time! If you would like to sign up for a specific plot to take care of this year, contact Debby Spence 299-3446 or dlspence at verizon.net. ...The dates for the rest of the year: June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16 and possibly Nov. 20, depending on the weather. Mark your calendars! (If it is pouring rain on the designated day, we will cancel.)

**HOWDYERS** – The Outreach Committee, particularly Grayfred Gray, has been scheduling the greeters for each worship day. Most have been members of the Outreach Committee, but it is not necessary to be a member of Outreach to be a greeter. The Outreach Committee would be pleased to welcome new greeters onto the

roster, thereby giving more members and attenders at LMM an opportunity to extend the warmth and welcome of our fellowship. If you would like to volunteer to be a greeter, on one or more occasions, please contact Grayfred Gray at 290-7723.

**STILL HUNGRY** – The Food Bank collection boxes are a bit empty. Consider making a contribution.

**EDUCATION THOUGHTS** – During the month of May, ponder on these queries: What is the role of education in our religious life together? Do we nurture opportunities for minds to flourish and individual gifts to be developed? Do we provide ways to pass on Quaker traditions and spiritual wisdom? How do we strive to make quality formal education possible for all? We'll also have a chance to consider these in worship before the May meeting for business.

**DINNER FUND** – Once again, during this month's cooperative meal, we will be raising funds for a worthy cause. Here will be an opportunity for you to donate funds for the ongoing work of the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) in Guatemala. Anne Wallace-DiGarbo and Joe DiGarbo want to match whatever is contributed at the May cooperative meal. Last year LMM raised \$735 that supported Val Liveoak's co-facilitating 3 basic and 2 advanced level workshops of AVP in Guatemala. It also helped a Guatemalan apprentice as facilitator at AVP trainings in El Salvador. In 2010, Peacebuilding in the Americas (PLA) plans to support at least 3 AVP workshops in Guatemala, and to continue offering Guatemalan facilitators the opportunity to co-facilitate in El Salvador and Honduras. Additionally, PLA plans to bring two Colombia facilitators of the Community Based Trauma Healing (an AVP Advanced workshop) to Guatemala to offer at least one workshop to participants who are AVP facilitators, and if they believe it is useful, train them in facilitating the workshop.

Also at this cooperative meal, the Outreach Committee will sponsor a table especially for visitors and new attenders. Those who are new to our Meeting or would like to meet some of our members are invited to join us. As hosts, we welcome those seeking information

about LMM, but mostly we want to meet and greet those who are new to our fellowship, to hear what brought them to our fellowship, and to attend to what we may offer to make the LMM a welcoming place for them. For more information, contact Haydn McLean at 799-4031.

**300 YEARS** – In October 1710, a group of 9 Mennonite men were granted a 10,000 acre tract on what was then the western edge of Pennsylvania. This year, therefore, marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that settlement, the first Europeans to permanently live in Lancaster County. There are all sorts of events planned through the year to celebrate this anniversary, including a program of healing and acknowledgement to honor the Native Americans who, by and large, were quite friendly with these early settlers. Find out more at [www.lmhs.org/Home/Get\\_Involved/Lancaster\\_Roots\\_300](http://www.lmhs.org/Home/Get_Involved/Lancaster_Roots_300)

**LEARNED SOMETHING** – On March 20 the High School hosted an interfaith dialog with Elizabethtown College students Abdullah Atta (AJ) from Iraq and Mina Abdelshahid from Egypt. They shared experiences that helped us understand their challenges and appreciation for US culture. The youth group from Pilgrim Mennonite joined us. Beth Reeves, Marcie Steele and Janet Malin worked with Cynthia Lowing to provide a delicious lunch. Abdullah's brother Amer has joined him. (The rest of AJ's family is still in Iraq.) Amer has the green card and is looking for work. He is a trained engineer but he is open to any job at this point. Please contact Anne Wallace DiGarbo (anneofmary at gmail.com) if you have a lead for him.

**LEARNING DOLLARS** – The Meeting has two Scholarship Funds for members, to assist with expenses for college or technical training. A grant fund is available to members entering teaching careers. Applications for these funds are available on the round table in the gathering room. Loan applications are reviewed by the Scholarship Committee in June or early July. If you need further information please contact Christine Fuller at chrisfuller at em-barqmail.com or 717-367-6130.

**CHOICE BOOKS** – Have you noticed, or is it just me? The Library Committee seems entirely

determined to provide us a very well stocked collection of extraordinary books. As they succeed, an old problem has become more challenging. Borrowed books need to come back on time—someone else probably wants to borrow them. Cynthia Lowing suggests you use the date-due card as a book mark.

### CONNECTIONS

**(Consider this an invitation. If you are unemployed—or under employed—I'll be happy to post something like this, from Andrea Miotto, for you. - editor)**

Hello and peace to all. I recently attended a PYM conference on unemployment, and the top means of finding unadvertised positions they recommended was networking. I thought I would introduce myself, hoping that letting you know about my qualifications might prompt you to think about all the professional and leisure networks of which you are a part, and that you might forward my information to as many people you can think of who might possibly know about full- or part-time positions in the pastoral care, editing, volunteer coordination, administrative/clerical, non-profit or publicity fields. This would be a huge aid to me as a jobseeker. I would be happy to offer this help to anyone else in Meeting who is looking for work. In addition, to supplement my search for a permanent, full-time position, I am offering a new editing, proofreading and English tutoring service to harness my expertise and years of experience as an editor and writer. If anyone in your family or workplace could benefit from short- or long-term editing or English tutoring, please contact me at 717-917-2657, or email me at amiotto at yahoo.com. I would be happy to offer a free first session to see if my skills match the client's needs. A little bit more about me: I have had the pleasure and privilege of sojourning among you since June of 2008. I am a member of Alexandria Monthly Meeting in Virginia, part of Baltimore Monthly Meeting. I graduated in Dec. 2006 from Earlham School of Religion, a Quaker seminary in Richmond, Indiana. I have a Master of Divinity degree, specializing in pastoral care. I moved to Lancaster to participate in a year-long chaplain residency program at Lancaster General Hospital. I have worked as a chaplain in hospice and

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retirement community settings as well. Since June of 2009, I have been a jobseeker, applying for positions that match my background, training and experience as a spiritual caregiver; editor and writer; volunteer coordinator; and administrative assistant. I graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Maryland at College Park with an Excellence in English Award. I majored in English with a concentration in creative writing. I minored in women's

studies. I have also worked as an executive assistant for a nonprofit agency, writing tutor, and library circulation desk clerk. You can view my entire professional profile at <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/dir/Andrea/Miotto/>. If I can help you in any way, please contact me at 717-917-2657, amiotto at yahoo.com.