



# Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

*Newsletter No. 572*

*September–October 2010*

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## **CALENDAR**

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

- 8:50-9:50 AM – Adult First-day School on early Friends (see below)

- 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.

Third First-day – Letter writing campaign from FCNL

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)

Every Fourth-day – 7:00 PM – Mid-week Meeting For Worship

## **FORUMS**

October 3 – Friendly 8s presentation by Worship and Ministry Committee (see below)

October 10 – Meeting for worship for business

October 31 – Solar energy solutions for homeowners (see below)

## **ACTIVITIES**

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

Sun. Sept 19 – Camp Swatara Planning Committee in Reading (see below)

Sun. Sept. 19 – 11:30 AM or so – Cooperative Meal. All are welcome.

Mon. Sept. 20 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse

Tue. Sept. 21 – 7:30 PM – Science/Spirituality in meetinghouse

Wed. Sept. 22 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship

Sat. Sept. 25 – 9:00-4:00 – “We Can Do It Day” at Arch Street in Philadelphia (see below)

**- ACTIVITIES CONTINUED -**

Sun. Sept. 26 – 9:00 AM – First-day School Committee in the basement  
 Sun. Sept. 26 – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship at Willow Valley  
 Mon. Sept. 27 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Tue. Sept. 28 – Noon-12:15 PM – Observe International Day of Peace (see below)  
 Wed. Sept. 29 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship  
 Sun. Oct. 3 – 10:00 AM – Meeting for worship at Cornwall Worship Group  
 Sun. Oct. 3 – 8:30 AM – Peace & Social Concerns Committee in meetinghouse  
 Sun. Oct. 3 – 9:00 AM – Environmental Concerns Committee in meetinghouse  
 Sun. Oct. 3 – 12:50-1:50 PM – Peaceful Families Subcommittee in meetinghouse  
 Sun. Oct. 3 – 2:00-4:30 PM – Shape-Note singing in meetinghouse  
 Mon. Oct. 4 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Mon. Oct. 4 – 7:00 PM – Worship & Ministry in meetinghouse  
 Tue. Oct. 5 – 7:15 PM – Care & Counsel in meetinghouse  
 Wed. Oct. 6 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship  
 Sat. Oct. 9 – 9:30-1:00 – Junior Interim Meeting in Philadelphia (see below)  
 Sat. Oct. 9 – 10:00-noon – Commemoration of Native American Legacy (see below)  
 Sat. Oct. 9 – 6:00 PM – Healing Racism Working Group potluck at Hernon-Reeves house  
 Sun. Oct. 10 – 11:35 AM – Meeting For Business  
 Mon. Oct. 11 – 7:00-8:30 PM – Spiritual Oasis in meetinghouse  
 Tue. Oct. 12 – Deadline for October-November newsletter  
 Wed. Oct. 13 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship  
 Sat. Oct. 16 – Garden day around the meetinghouse  
 Sun. Oct. 17 – 10:00 AM – Caln Quarterly Meeting at Bradford Meeting (see below)  
 Sun. Oct. 17 – 11:30 AM or so – Cooperative Meal. All are welcome.  
 Tue. Oct. 19 – 7:30 PM – Science/Spirituality in meetinghouse (see below)  
 Wed. Oct. 20 – 7:00 PM – Mid-week meeting for worship  
 Sun. Oct. 24 – 9:00 AM – First-day School Committee in the basement  
 Sat. Oct. 30 – 9:00-3:00 – Meeting retreat (see below)

**LANCASTER MONTHLY MEETING  
 THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
 HELD AT LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA  
 ON NINTH MONTH 12, 2010**

At about 11:40 pm, 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 Eighth Month were read, corrected and approved. Clerk noted that he started meeting for business earlier today even though only a few were present. He also spoke about facilitation styles on a continuum from control to laissez faire. He has a preference towards letting things go on but hopes to do more testing—such as, “Are we ready to move on?”—in the course of today’s meeting.

**Worship sharing on queries on outreach:**

Queries

1. What are we doing as a Meeting to commu-

nicate our presence and our principles to the community around us? What are we doing to invite persons not in our membership to attend our meetings for worship and to encourage their continued attendance? Are we sensitive to the needs and hesitations of each visitor?

2. How do I ground myself in the understandings of my faith? Am I clear about my beliefs? Does my manner of life as a Friend attract others to our religious society? Is my manner with visitors and attenders to our Meeting one of welcome?

[Source: PYM’s *Faith & Practice*, 2007]

Responses

- During meeting today I had a visualization of water rippling out. I think of meeting as a place where we get together on Sunday and the ripples go outward all week. We’re fortunate in Lancaster Meeting that our ripples go out around the world.

- All in one week my brother and his two

daughters joined various religious communities. Knowing how important it's been to my husband and me to find a spiritual home in Lancaster Meeting, I appreciate the meaning to others of finding their spiritual home.

- One thing that's become apparent to me is the impact of our website. Several who have come to meeting came knowing something about our community, which they got from the website. I like to think how our community created the website, which included the gift of the designer's time. Many documents are on our website, so even before a person meets us, they can get an idea of who we are.

- I came here because of the website. I agree with you and commend you for all your effort.

- What can we do to encourage persons to attend our worship? People come for a reason, because something is going on in their lives. But remember: the single most powerful thing we can do is to invite people to attend.

- I'm not sure how many are aware of all the things we are doing as a Meeting, but we also need to invite people to continue to attend. Care & Counsel does this, but individuals can also do it. We have one ad in the daily paper one day a week. It was under Friends but most people look for Quakers, so now it's going to be under both. Spiritual Oasis functions as an outreach activity. Hopefully those who come to our meeting are diverse, so we need to be aware of different people's sensitivities.

- My resume includes the fact that I'm a Quaker. I'm not job-hunting but use the resume to introduce myself to various organizations I work with. Which leads me to a question: if more community groups used our building, would it introduce them to Quakerism?

- I struggle with the implications of "outreach." I struggle because of negative feelings from my past about Christian outreach. Why do we need to reach out? Should we consider this? Why are we reaching out? Because it's "natural" to want to share something valuable in our own lives? For me, this has value. I notice I naturally mention I'm a Quaker and what it does for me. I've mentioned it in my classroom (I like pushing the edge in physics) and my students wanted to know what's different about Quaker worship. Another thing is that if I missed a few meetings, I wouldn't want a call asking me to attend, but just asking "how are you, are you okay, is there anything I can do?"

- I like what Emily Higgs said in her letter about letting our lives speak. We're going to have a gathering for basic AVP for community organizations and workers. The AVP literature barely mentions Friends, but the AVP program reinforces Quaker testimonies. F&M students who took AVP training are now mentoring other students. It's the idea of Friends showing up in a variety of places.

- This morning we have two children here who came because their father came. Two Sundays ago we brought them to meeting, and they enjoy being here.

- The outreach program is why I'm here—because the outreach of a previous church offended me. It reminds me of my donkey in Lesotho and the local man who beat the donkey with a big stick. The donkey was afraid of him and ran away when she saw him. I used a little guide stick and rewarded the donkey with turnip greens when she moved along. After a while, the donkey came to me when she saw me.

- The queries reminded me of an announcement I forgot to bring. It's about PYM's "We Can Do It" day when a new First-day School (FDS) curriculum will be present. It's September 25th at Arch Street. There'll be workshops and lunch, and a registration fee of \$20.

- One way to be visible in a community is through witness. So join our peace vigil every Saturday from 11 to noon on the courthouse steps. We're there rain or shine.

- Often I leave meeting thinking of others who might like to be here. Could we find other ways to bring people here, for example, an introduction to Quakerism? It took me a long time to find my way here. Maybe there are others like that.

**Treasurer's report.** Treasurer Karen Zimmerman gave the happy report that in the period January through August, 2010, we are only \$850 short. Expenses were \$41,273 and income was \$40,423. This year's income is \$10,000 over last year's income for the same period. Karen finds this impressive and thanks everyone for being generous donors.

**Traveling minute report from Tom Gates.** In March, Lancaster Meeting approved a traveling minute for Tom Gates's trip to Kenya. Today Tom returned the minute to Clerk. Tom told us this was his fifth trip to Kenya, and that he always goes there with a sense of leading and ministry.

He was there from March 20 to May 20.

He did medical work in western Kenya, at Lugulu Friends Hospital, where he worked with two Kenyan doctors and saw 40 to 50 patients a day. Several times he was the only doctor at the hospital. Lugulu has about 2,000 AIDS patients on antiretroviral drugs, which are free through USAID's PEPFAR program. Tom participated in a government new family residency training program, since that is what he does at Lancaster General. It is the only such program in Kenya. He also did some palliative care work and learned, to his surprise, of a Nairobi-based organization, the Kenyan Hospice and Palliative Care Association, which is linked with Hospice of Lancaster County, with which Tom is also involved. So he did some training in hospice and palliative care.

Tom's contact with Quakers was sporadic but he did attend some meetings. At Kenyan Quaker meetings, an esteemed visitor is asked to give a message. Knowing this, Tom always went well prepared. He also participated three times a week in morning devotions at Lugulu Hospital, where again he spoke several times about the essence of Quakerism. These were basically sermons based on readings from the bible.

Tom spent two days at Kaimosi Hospital, which is not as high functioning as Lugulu. As he considers his ongoing leading, Tom is uncertain about the future, but he is coming to see medical services, though much needed, as limited and teaching as an activity whose benefits are ongoing. The need in Kenya and more widely in sub-Saharan Africa is great. Sub-Saharan Africa has 10% of the world's population and 25% of its disease burden, compared to 5% and 3% for the U.S. Sub-Saharan Africa has 1% of the world's medical personnel. The U.S. has 50% of the world's medical spending.

Tom spoke of a publication on the ethics of global health, which he said reflect his values: 1) *Humility*: "We don't have all the answers, and I am humbled by what I don't know." 2) *Sense of introspection*: This is needed to question our own motives and our advantages. 3) *Solidarity/compassion*—especially regarding the suffering of others. 4) *Hunger for social justice*.

A Friend told us that Tom is a board-certified hospice doctor and that for him to be present in Kenya when such a doctor was needed seems like God working. At Lancaster General, Tom is the key person training in global medicine and

an international perspective. Often his residents work overseas.

Tom told us that getting endorsements to his traveling minute was a lengthy process, as each person who got the minute would keep it for a long time, so there are some big holes. Clerk then read the 3 endorsements on Tom's minute. Each expressed gratitude for Tom's presence at devotions and his preaching or messages.

Clerk thanked Tom for his report and also commented that Tom's life speaks.

**Meeting signboard.** Clerk introduced this item by quoting Arthur Larrabee: "It is not necessary to use weighty decision-making processes for a non-weighty matter." Clerk explained that he asked the two committees responsible for the signboard (Long Range Planning and Outreach) to make a recommendation because it is a maintenance issue and the committees have done the research and have the knowledge.

Ernie Nute then spoke regarding the signboard. He said that when Outreach realized the poor condition of the sign, they came to Long Range Planning. The latter decided to build a sign for half the price of purchasing one. The design will be finished by next Sunday, and they hope to build it this year. An anonymous donor will cover the costs. Also, the new sign will have "light within," with LED lights powered by solar panels.

Regarding signs, a Friend asked if we could have a permanent sign on Columbia Avenue. The answer is no. But we could erect one weekly with permission from the shopping mall. This is being discussed in Outreach.

Clerk thanked both committees for their good example of committee cooperation, doing their homework, and coming to a thoughtful conclusion.

**Camp Swatara Planning Committee.** Lancaster Meeting needs a representative at the September 19 meeting of the Camp Swatara Planning Committee. We will need an ongoing representative to the committee but for now, we need someone to attend at least this one meeting. No one came forth so Clerk asked that anyone interested contact himself or Albert Geier.

**Conestoga View Christmas gifts.** For a number of years Lancaster Meeting has bought little gifts, such as calendars and socks, for residents of the county home, Conestoga View. Someone from the home provides a list and the Meeting contact per-

son buys the gifts and takes them to Conestoga View. Grayfred Gray volunteered to be the contact person this year.

**Of time and the Quakers.** Clerk said various people have spoken to him about how we prepare ourselves for worship and time overlaps with Meeting activities such as, on First Day morning, adult education and committee meetings. He invited us to begin a process of discernment on these matters by sharing our thoughts and questions.

On the matter of preparing for meeting for worship, several Friends spoke to this being an individual thing, emphasizing that there are many ways to prepare. One Friend said Meeting offers many invitations to worship, not just at meetings for worship but in other ways, such as our small group activities. Others spoke of Meeting's favorable attitude toward adult education—not usual in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) Meetings—and their desire for a strong adult FDS program between 8:00 and 10:00 meetings for worship. Friends commented that Lancaster is a complex, dynamic Meeting and suggested we should be grateful to have such vital committees, even if they meet at the same time as adult education. One Friend noted that this is a modern quandary and that many volunteer organizations have disappeared because they can't get volunteers.

As for committees, several Friends felt each committee needs to decide for itself when to meet. Another Friend thought deeper discernment could consider these questions: How can a committee bring the best of ourselves to Meeting? How can a committee's work best be discerned?

A Friend who regularly attends 8 o'clock meeting invited everyone to try it for a very different, very deep worship experience.

Clerk said this is only the beginning of a discernment process.

**Report on PYM and Interim Meeting.** Bob Lowing reported on attendance at Interim Meeting the day before. Interim is the group which conducts the business of PYM between annual sessions. On this day, Interim experimented with a consent agenda, with 12 items received or approved without discussion. Another 4 items were approved after brief discussions. This was done to free up time for the meeting to break into smaller groups to reflect on Clerk's query: "How do we (Interim

Meeting) do our business? And what is our work?" Maria Cattell said that after adjournment, Friends joined in dedicating a newly installed peace pole at Arch Street Meetinghouse. This was sponsored by the Peace & Concerns Standing Committee, on which Maria serves.

Jim Herr, who serves as a Recording Clerk for PYM, wanted everyone to know about Junior Interim Meeting, which grew out of the response of PYM children and youth to this question: What do you want to do? Their answer: we want to play games with kids different from ourselves. And that is what they do at Junior Interim Meeting, which is held at the same time as Interim Meeting. Children and youth from Lancaster would be welcome at the next Junior Interim Meeting on October 9.

[For a fuller report, see elsewhere in the Newsletter.]

Clerk thanked Bob, Maria and Jim as people who feel their spiritual life extends beyond Lancaster Meeting.

After a brief period of silent worship, Meeting for Business ended at about 1.25 pm. There were 40 present, including one child.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Moore, Clerk

Maria Cattell, Recording Clerk

**Present:** Karen & Steven Alderfer, Nancy Bieber, Peggy Bright & daughter, Maria Cattell, Joyce Collins, Jean & William Eaton, Elsi Eberly, Philip Eisemann, Elizabeth & Thomas Gates, Albert Geier, Grayfred & Lois Frey Gray, James Herr, Eugene & Judith Homan, Mark Horst, James Kalish, Amanda Kemp, John & Kay Lahr, Charles Lane, Thomas Latus, Patricia Lea, Jonathan Lind, Robert Lowe, Cynthia & Robert Lowing, Anna & Joseph Moore, George Nofer, Ernest Nute, Carl & Rachel Perry, Joanna Sadler, Scott Walck, Karen Zimmerman.

## BELOW, AND OTHER DATES

**PLAN TO PLAN** – If you receive this newsletter by email, or otherwise learn of this, please consider attending the Camp Swatara Planning Committee meeting, Sunday Sept. 19, at Reading Monthly Meeting, noon, as mentioned above. This will be the preliminary session, at which major things are decided—theme and whether or not to have a plenary speaker, for instance.

**PEACETIME** – This Tuesday, Sept. 21, is the

International Day of Peace. Peace & Concerns Standing Committee of PYM is asking Friends to observe this day with 15 minutes of worship and prayer for peace beginning at noon.

**REDUCE OFFENSE** – A presentation on “Sex Offending: Myths, Facts and Challenges,” will be offered here in the meetinghouse, on Thursday, Sept. 23, sponsored by Community Renewal for Sex Offenders (CR-SO). It will be for an invited audience including concerned citizens, former offenders and their friends and family, criminal justice personnel, clergy, public officials, service providers, employers, and therapists in Lancaster and nearby counties. Of course, all Meeting members and attenders are welcome.

The main speaker is Santhi S. Leon, J.D., Ph.D currently from the University of Delaware, and a member of Whittier First Friends Meeting in California.

There will be a choice of two sessions, 12 pm to 1:30 (light lunch provided) and 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Please let CR-SO know you are coming and indicate which session (noon or evening). If you prefer not to provide contact information you are still encouraged to attend. Contact Jim Kalish jim\_kalish at yahoo.com or 397-3569.

Event organizers include John Rush (director, New Person’s Center, Berks County) Don Sense-nig (retired minister), Jim Kalish (organizer and advocate) and David Worth (pioneer in support for sex offender re-entry in Canada).

CR-SO is a broad-based citizen effort promoting public policy and programs for sex offenders to reduce victimization and to support those who have offended to live in the community without doing harm to others or to themselves. While CR-SO is an independent entity, not a Quaker organization, a number of members and attenders actively participate in it. Also, the Milner Fund, with approval from the Meeting, awarded a \$5,000 start-up grant to LAVORP for Circles of Support and Responsibility (CoSA), a program which CR-SO was responsible for planning and developing.

**CAN YOU?** – Next Saturday, Sept. 25 from 9 AM-4 PM, there will be a program called “We Can Do It Day: Spiritual Hospitality” at the Arch Street meetinghouse in Philadelphia. It is sponsored by Quaker Quest, the organization responsible for last year’s Meeting retreat. Seekers who visit our Meeting are looking for a variety of things in their spiritual home including a warm welcome, deep

worship, and religious education for kids and adults. There will be a variety of workshops to focus on each of these factors. And there will be a children’s program for school-age kids, also focusing on Spiritual Hospitality. A \$20 fee to cover some costs will be charged. Lunch will be provided. For more information contact Christie Duncan-Tessmer, Associate Secretary for Program & Religious Life, 215-241-7008, christiedt at pym.org.

**OLD FRIENDS** – Starting next Sunday, Sept. 26, 8:50-9:50 AM, Tom Gates will facilitate “Relating to Early Friends: Their Experience and Ours.” We will use a 7-part curriculum by Helene Pollock of PYM, the goals of which are: “to share our spiritual experiences in a way that emphasizes openness and acceptance; to listen to the spiritual experience of early Friends, thereby enriching our understanding of the Quaker tradition; and to help people articulate their questions about early Friends.” Each week, we will explore a short passage from the writings of early Friends; there is no “homework” to prepare or read. We will use queries to help us connect the brief passage to our own experience. It is assumed that not everyone will be able to attend all sessions. Topics include “that of God”, the Inward Witness, the Seed, being “exercised”, experiencing God’s power, and two kinds of wisdom. Note that because the curriculum is based on one-hour sessions, and because we need to vacate the room for First Day School, we will be starting at 8:50.

**YF** – There is still room for Young Friends at the Peace Fair, Sept. 24-26, Buckingham Friends School & Meetinghouse, Lahaska, PA. Visit [www.pym.org/youngfriends/index.htm](http://www.pym.org/youngfriends/index.htm) and download a registration form. Bring the forms and money on Friday. E-mail Cookie Caldwell cookiec at pym.org that you’re coming (with name, address, e-mail, phone, etc) so he can add you to the list. Do you have food allergies? Are you Vegetarian? Vegan? Pescatarian? Carnitarian? Planetarian? Rotarian? Let him know.

**LISTEN UP** – Bright Side Opportunities Center, in collaboration with Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness and Lancaster Literary Guild, is bringing to Lancaster Pulitzer Prize-winning author Taylor Branch. He will speak at Bright Side Baptist Church, 515 Hershey Ave. on Wed., Sept. 29 at 7:00 PM. Admission is free, though a free-will of-

fering will be received. Taylor's topic is: "Forty Years after Martin Luther King: Looking Ahead." He is renowned for his award-winning trilogy on Dr. Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement: *Parting the Waters*, *On Canaan's Edge*, and *Pillar of Fire*. These have won high acclaim for their thorough research, authoritative telling of this crucial era of American history, and insight into King's steadfast commitment to non-violent action.

A delicious 5:30 dinner with Taylor Branch at Bright Side Opportunities Center is open to those who help underwrite the event with a tax-deductible gift of \$100 per person or \$150 per couple. Checks may be written to LIPW with "Taylor Branch" in the memo line, and mailed to Suzanne Schaudel, 351 Sun Valley Drive, Leola, PA 17540 by September 20. For further information or to make dinner reservations contact LIPW at [www.lancasterinterchurchpeacewitness.org](http://www.lancasterinterchurchpeacewitness.org) or 390-8609.

**8 FRIENDS** – The Forum on Oct. 3 will provide information on this year's Friendly 8 groups, those small groups of Friends who get together with a particular focus. Group conveners/facilitators will present briefly on their topics, books (if applicable), meeting times (if known), format (dinner included?) and location.

**MUSICALLY** – Lancaster Friends are invited to support a multicultural theatrical presentation from the Philippines, "Song of Joseph: a musical on the life, love and death of St. Joseph." It will be performed in English by the Philippine Music Theatre at Lancaster Mennonite High School Fine Arts Center on Oct. 9 at 7pm. Tickets are \$20 or free for kids below 10 years old. Buy them from St. Joseph's church or Rice and Roll restaurant both in Lancaster City. For more info, call Cielo Lutz at 717-354-2845

**NATIVE HERE** – The Circle Legacy Center is a relatively new nonprofit group based in Lancaster that has as its mission to "bring forth a new beginning and healing to our First Nations' Peoples by honoring their native cultures and by restoring William Penn's and Chief Tamenend's original vision of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be a place of peace and sanctuary for all." On Oct. 9, in conjunction with the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society's Roots 300 Celebration, celebrating Lancaster's 300th anniversary, there will be an event designed to be a first step in establishing

an authentic relationship with Native Americans residing in Lancaster County. The morning ceremony "Acknowledgement & Apology to Native Peoples" will occur at the First Presbyterian Church, 140 East Orange Street, Lancaster, 10 AM to Noon. A statement will be read and religious (Mennonite, Amish, Presbyterian and Quaker), local and state government, and Native American representatives will respond. While the event is free, because of limited seating space at the church, advance tickets must be obtained. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Circle Legacy Center [thecirclelegacy@aol.com](mailto:thecirclelegacy@aol.com) or 823-2079.

In the afternoon, there will be a Multi-Cultural Celebration (Native American, Mennonite, Presbyterian, Quaker, Amish) at the Hans Herr House, 1849 Hans Herr Drive, Willow Street 1:00-5:00 PM. At 2:00 PM is the dedication of the site where a Native American long house will be built. This event is free and open to the public. There will be multi-cultural music and dance, cultural & historical exhibits, and food vendors.

**FRAC** – The Environmental Working Group is sponsoring a screening of the documentary *Gasland* at Penn Cinema, October 14, 7:00 PM. This will be free to the public. A discussion will follow in the theater. *Gasland* is a documentary about the mining of natural gas.

$\frac{1}{4}$  - Although the program won't be announced for another couple weeks, it's not too early to plan to attend the next meeting of Caln Quarterly Meeting, Oct. 17 at Bradford Meeting in Marshallton, PA (about an hour away—between Downingtown and West Chester). Bradford has a small, lovely, antique meetinghouse built in the 1700s. Worship there begins at 10:00; Quarterly meeting for business will probably start after that. And there will be a program of interest in the afternoon. Everyone is welcome. If you want to take your children you are most welcome, but please contact either Marie Ryan, Caln Coordinator (610)777-5825, coordinator at [calnqm.org](http://calnqm.org) or Jim Herr herrs at [bellatlantic.net](http://bellatlantic.net).

**SPISCI** – The Science and Spirituality study group will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 19, 7:30 in the Community Room. Our discussion of *Quantum Theology* will conclude by covering Part Seven-The Future: Chapter 14 (The Promise and the Peril), and Chapter 15 (No Greater Love....). All are welcome to join us. Any questions, call Adele Berardi

391-8915.

**DISCERN DAY** – Our Meeting’s annual fall retreat this year will be on Oct. 30 from 9:00 to 3:30. Nancy Bieber will lead Friends in an exploration of Spiritual Discernment: The Sacred Art of Finding Your Way.

Spiritual discernment is the practice of listening and responding to the Spirit as we find our way through life. Drawing on her book *Decision Making and Spiritual Discernment: The Sacred Art of Finding Your Way*, Nancy will lead us in a day of learning practices that help us make decisions and shape our lives with the aid of the divine Light. We will focus on openness to the Spirit, attention to the unique persons we are and the unique lives we have, and responses through stepping forward. The retreat day will include quiet time to focus on your individual situation as well as large group discussion. You do not need to be at a major decision-point of your life for this retreat: wise shaping of our daily lives constantly calls us to spiritual discernment.

Nancy Bieber is a psychologist and spiritual director with many years experience of retreat-leading at Pendle Hill and around the country. She served on the teaching staff of the Quaker School of the Spirit. She is presently a lead teacher of the ecumenical group Oasis Ministries and teaches courses on prayer at Lancaster Theological Seminary. She is delighted to share one of her favorite subjects with her own Meeting!

Bring a dish to share for lunch. Childcare available. Call Tabea Fitz 426-3301.

**SUNSHINE** – The forum planned for Oct. 31 will give information about solar energy. It will include a first-hand report from Larry and Nancy Bieber about their solar installation.

**SIGNIFICANT, AND OTHERWISE**

**SHARE** – The collection at today’s shared meal will go to an active humanitarian group working to make life better for people in Pakistan.

**RECORDING** – If you have a child or children of any age in the First-day School this year, please register them. We’re Quakers. Keeping track is important to us.

**READ?** – Buchanan Elementary Literacy Corp needs adults to read with children in grades 1-5. Please consider contributing to our community by supporting this racially and social-class diverse

school in Lancaster City. Amanda Kemp’s children and others in Meeting have or currently attend this elementary school. If you have 30 minutes a week to read to a child, please contact Missy Gehler 291-9509 Mgehler at comcast.net

**SNACK THANKS** – Marilyn Morrison and Jean Eaton, Co-Clerks of Social Committee, want to thank everyone who provided the great snacks this summer, which were well received by all. Thanks to Judy and Gene Homan, Joanna and Loren Sadler, Beth Reeves and Stephanie Martin, Deb Hewes and Ron Ashby, Pat Reed and Stephanie Martin, Anna Fischer and Anna Moore, Deirdre Citro, Tom Tucker and Deb Raudenbush, Lois and Grayfred Gray, and Joanne Leatherman and Steve Dalbor.

**COUNTED** – Lancaster Monthly Meeting’s census of all in attendance at meetings for worship and/or First-day School for April showed growth. Note: a) “Children/Youth” = newborns to high school seniors; b) there were no children/youth at 8 o’clock Meeting.

Date	10:00 am Meeting Adults	10:00 am Meeting Children/ Youth	8:00 am Meeting Adults	TOTAL
April 4	54	17	13	84
April 11	71	18	12	101
April 18	73	26	10	109
April 25	80	29	10	119

**COURSING** – Worship & Ministry wants Friends to know about twin offerings from Oasis Ministries for Spiritual Development, co-facilitated by our Friend, Nancy Bieber: *Contemplative Living: The Spirituality for Daily Life* is a one day a month, October to May program that focuses on living more contemplatively in the middle of our daily lives. Reading, discussion, quiet retreat time and support of other participants helps you grow more attentive and responsive to the presence of the Holy. ... *Spiritual Direction for Spiritual Guides* is a two-year course (October to May, one day per month, with opening and closing overnight retreat). It has two foci: learning and growing in one’s own spiritual journey and learning how to deeply listen and be a companion for others on their journeys. Check them out these programs at [www.oasismin.org](http://www.oasismin.org) or ask Nancy Bi-

eber. She's been on the Oasis teaching staff for 14 years.

**AGELESS** – On the first Sunday of every month, First-day School classes will join together for “intergenerational worship.” This will give our teachers a chance to skip class and stay in worship for the full hour. It will also give adults in Meeting a chance to get to know some of our younger attendees. Would you like to help? Maybe you can convince your committee or interest group to join you. Worship and Ministry Committee will provide assistance in planning to make it worshipful. And the hope is that the program can be truly intergenerational—including anyone of any age in Meeting. Please contact Andrea Carty for more information or to volunteer: [apcarty@embarq-mail.com](mailto:apcarty@embarq-mail.com) (best) or 285-3830 or sign up on the round table. (We need someone for October 3...) Last year the slots filled quickly.

**UPLIFT** – Lois Frey Gray announced at Meeting for Worship Sunday, Sept. 12: A Database of Successes at [www.dbsst.org](http://www.dbsst.org). The database is intended to aid others in developing effective responses to their situations, empower individuals and local groups, and reassure people that they are not struggling alone and that it is not hopeless. To allow easy access to those in developing countries, it is purposely kept quite simple. The project began when a group of people realized that the problems in the world were multiplying, but that efforts to solve the problems were also multiplying. Most media sources focus on the problems but say little about positive efforts. The database has grown over the years and currently contains nearly 900 case histories. Most of them are taken from (and credited to) periodicals. Arden Buck, Nederland, Colo. Sara Lee, Caldwell, Idaho. FRIENDS JOURNAL, Sept. 2010

**RICHER KIDS** - At PYM Summer Sessions in 2009 the children asked “What is God’s priority for the children of the Yearly Meeting?” And they heard: “We are called to share meals and play team-building sports with poor or homeless children. We also will give money, food and sports equipment to the kids.” The Children and Middle Schoolers of PYM will be working on this priority for the 2010-2011 Interim Meeting season. It started at the Interim Meeting on Sept. 11 when a group of about 10 elementary school children from around the YM area went to a day care center in a very poor neighborhood in Philadelphia

and played for a couple hours with the kids there. They had great fun—and they all got a view of a part of our American culture with which they never come in contact. Please consider having your child/children participate in this “Junior Interim Meeting” on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in: October, November; January, February; April, May, and June. Contact Ben Camp, the Children's Religious Life Program Coordinator, 215-241-7228 or [benc@pym.org](mailto:benc@pym.org). To register, go to [www.surveymonkey.com/s/JYIMFall2010](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JYIMFall2010). Maria Cattell and Bob Lowing are our representatives to adult Interim Meeting (see below) and may be able to provide rides.

**QUERIES** for Tenth Month, 2010:

Are the decisions of the Meeting and its committees relating to the uses of property, goods, services, and energy made with sensitivity toward environmental impact of those choices?

How am I helping to develop a social, economic, and political system which will nurture an environment which sustains and enriches life for all?

--PYM *Faith & Practice*, 2002

## REPORT FROM SEPTEMBER 11 INTERIM MEETING

By Bob Lowing, Maria Cattell, Jim Herr

What's happening in the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) community that Lancaster Friends should know about? Representatives from all Monthly Meetings in PYM gather 6 times a year at Arch Street Meetinghouse to conduct PYM business at what is called Interim Meeting (IM). On September 11, Lancaster Meeting representatives Maria Cattell and Bob Lowing traveled to Philadelphia for Interim Meeting along with Jim Herr, who is one of PYM's Recording Clerks.

Thomas Swain clerked with help from 4 Alternate Clerks. About 80 Friends, including General Secretary Arthur Larrabee, other PYM staff and visitors, formed the deliberating body. Clerk presented an experimental “consent agenda,” listing 12 agenda items to be received or approved without discussion. In response to Friends' requests, 4 other items from the consent agenda were allowed discussion time before they were approved. So we got through 16 items of business in about one hour! Among these items: our own Amanda Kemp was approved to serve on the Friends General Conference Committee. Also

approved: Central Philadelphia MM's minute opposing escalation of the war in Afghanistan and supporting the recommendations of FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) to redirect the conflict; and Wellsboro MM's minute empowering them to engage their quarter (Upper Susquehanna) and PYM to support a moratorium on drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale, provide communication within PYM and with other yearly meetings on this concern, and consider planning at least one event around these concerns to coincide with the 350.org work party on climate action on 10/10/10. (Contact person: Bryn Hammerstrom: Quaker at epix.net.)

Rather like Lancaster Meeting's discussion of process in our September business meeting, we then became introspective. We broke up for small group discussions responding to Clerk's query: "How do we (Interim Meeting) do our business? And what is our work?" (For IM's duties, see p. 196 in *Faith and Practice*—currently being revised.) Then we returned to the larger group to hear each other's reflections on Clerk's query. There were many favorable comments

about the "consent agenda" and the way it allowed us to "raise up weighty matters rather than micromanaging committee reports."

Following IM, PYM's Peace & Concerns Standing Committee led dedication of the peace pole recently installed near the entrance to Arch Street Meetinghouse. This pole (similar to the one gracing the entrance to Lancaster Meetinghouse) has inscriptions for "May peace prevail on earth" in 4 languages. Standing Committee Clerk Patricia Finley was joined by Maria Cattell, other Standing Committee members, and about 50 other Friends for the event. Anne Creter (a Standing Committee member) spoke about the history and purpose of peace poles. Other speakers included Eileen Green and Donald Owen (of Harrisburg Meeting), who donated the pole, William Penn, and a Friend from Central Philadelphia who read his meeting's just-approved minute on the Afghanistan War. Other Friends gave messages of reconciliation, forgiveness and peace and placed origami cranes at the foot of the pole. May peace prevail on earth!