



A Delegate's View of *Heeding God's Call*

Being chosen as Concord Quarter's delegate to *Heeding God's Call: a Gathering on Peace* gave me the experience of my spiritual lifetime as a Quaker. It was an energizing and exhausting week of activity. I took the goal of the gathering, "seeking together nonviolent ways to confront violence, terrorism, and fear while creating ways to build peace," to heart as my personal goal. The days followed a breakneck schedule: morning worship, panel discussions, lunch in various places, workshops, anchor groups, dinner, and an evening presentation. I attended all days from morning through late at night. These were my impressions:

I had never seen the Arch Street meeting room so full of people and so electric! The main benches, and most of the side seating, were full. At the opening, a general introduction and welcome was made to all attending groups; then the choir on the facing benches burst into song. After years of silent worship, the strength and beauty of the music and singing was overwhelming. I was surprised to see many familiar Quaker faces among the singers. All

worship services and panels were thoughtfully presented, but it was the evening sessions I enjoyed most. On Wednesday, Alexie Torres-Fleming spoke to the intersection of faith and practice. Reared in the Bronx slums, this young woman used her brains and education to break free, establishing a career in Chicago. Yet she was dogged by the question, "who am I supposed to be"? She had everything to live with, but nothing to live for. Alexie returned to the Bronx and started *Youth Ministries for Faith and Justice*. She stated, "The poorest of the poor taught me the most about generosity." She also felt strongly that there are needy people right in our neighborhoods. We don't have to travel to another country to find poverty; it doesn't look any different elsewhere than it does right here.

Dr. Vincent Harding was a treasure. Had Martin Luther King grown old, I believe he would have become a Vincent Harding: diminutive, frail-looking, straight-talking, and sharp as a tack! He would gaze out over the group at Arch Street meeting, and say in a deep voice, "You look gooood."

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Multigenerational April Quarterly Meeting at West Chester

Gwenn Knapp, member of West Chester Meeting and district justice, will offer a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of restorative justice, including information about the importance of community collaboration. Christina Valocchi, the Mobilizer from the West Chester Communities That Care, and Adrian Sagan, the Restorative Justice Specialist at the Good Shepherd Mediation Program in Philadelphia, will also present. Christina and Adrian have worked with Gwenn in developing YACC, or the

Youth Adult Community Conferencing program, in Gwenn's court, employing restorative justice practices.

Our middle and high school youth will have a service project and do a role play with the theme of righting a wrong in a manner that helps all people involved. The younger children will have a restorative practices story, arts project, and Faith & Play story. See p. 4 and flyer insert for details.

A Delegate's View cont'd from p. 1

Three blocks north of the Meeting, in the shadow of the approach ramp to the Ben Franklin Bridge, is Old St. George's Methodist Church. As the Gathering outgrew Arch Street, churches in the area were approached as satellite venues for the smaller afternoon workshops. I attended "How to Speak to the Military" here. The place was a charming eighteenth century time capsule. Our workshop, led by a pair of Mennonite facilitators, grappled with modern problems of a military culture running amok. These men had worked together for years; however, there couldn't have been a more mismatched-looking couple. One was Caucasian, tall, pale, and thin, reminding me of a farmer (which he was). The other was muscular, African-American with an edge, from life in the inner city. They have been working with non-violent conflict resolution in the city, and trying to enlighten youth about real life in the military. They shared their work and thoughts with our group, which we followed with some lively discussion.

Other memory snapshots: the light streaming through the windows behind the facing benches, illuminating faces of worshippers on the sides; bone-chilling coldness every time one went out; snow flurries outside the Constitution Center during lunch; watching Arthur Larrabee in a Conga Line

during Friday morning worship; the care exhibited by all Arch Street workers providing breakfasts, snacks, information, support.

What stayed with me most, though, didn't come directly from the Gathering. It was the feelings I had walking through the cold night to the train station. Passing an illuminated Independence Hall, I wondered: if she could talk, what would she say? I thought of the steamy summer of the late 1700s when men inside her debated the course of a young country, trying then to get it right. Would the Hall agree today with the job they did? I reassured her: those founding fathers did indeed get most of it right. Despite some imperfections, Christians, Jews, and Muslims in a rainbow of colors were gathered down the street from her, openly discussing issues of peace without fear of repercussions, heeding God's call.

Chris Smith

Chris Smith is eager to visit your meeting and talk about her experiences during the Gathering and update you on the ongoing work to eliminate gun violence. She welcomes having a conversation with you about your own concerns and actions for peace. Please contact her at 610.524.6647 or neonurl@verizon.net.

Old Quaker Cemetery Restored

Scout James E. Alexander of Troop 14 in West Chester has completed his requirements for Eagle Scout through renovation of a Quaker cemetery. Jim's project, completed for Goshen Monthly Meeting where he is a member, entailed planning, working with, and leading fellow scouts in clearing away the overgrowth that has shrouded the East Whiteland Cemetery in Malvern for so long. The broken gate was removed and a new one built and installed complete with a sign for the 19th-century cemetery. The gravestones that had sunk into the ground were repositioned, depressed areas filled with soil, and grass planted. The project also involved replacement of stones where the wall had crumbled.

The cemetery belonged to a Quaker preparative meeting. The Whiteland group first met in 1816, having formed from Goshen Monthly Meeting. Their Preparative Meeting was "allowed" by Concord Quarter in 1822, but by 1850 the Whiteland members had laid it down.

Jim is a student of The Curtis Institute of Music where he studies French horn. He is simultaneously a senior at West Chester East High School from which he will graduate this June.

Iraqi Refugee Resettlement Project (IRRP)

Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting, January 25, 2009

The Iraqi Refugee Resettlement Project (IRRP), an interfaith initiative supported by this Quarterly Meeting, has completed its four-month sponsorship of the Jumaa family (Rafil and Eman, husband and wife, and their son Zaid, 14, and daughter Reem, 12), who arrived in the U.S. last July. The IRRP has been a unique undertaking that brought together individuals from numerous communities of faith who felt called to the common cause of helping refugees of the Iraq War resettle in the U.S. We came together under the guidance of Lutheran Children and Family Service and formed committees to provide the family with orientation to services, assistance with education, language, transportation, medical, employment and housing needs, and financial support. While our formal sponsorship responsibilities have been met and the full breadth of the volunteer effort is no longer needed, some individuals continue to be involved in a more limited way. We check in with the family regularly, help them understand their options in new situations, listen, and encourage. Our present focus is to assist the family with some on-going health and education issues, and we are paying part of their rent each month of their current lease.

The Jumaa family took a major step toward self-sufficiency when they moved from temporary housing donated by the Kendal-Crosslands retirement communities to their own rental house in Kennett Square in mid-December. IRRP is very grateful to the residents and staff of the Kendal-Crosslands Communities for providing a home and a warm, caring community for the family during their initial resettlement period. About 50 residents were involved in helping the family while they lived at Kendal, including providing financial assistance. The KCC staff welcomed and supported the family by providing services and amenities at no cost.

It was one year ago, at the January Quarterly Meeting held in Wilmington, that this body provided the encouragement, the spiritual support, and the bank account that enabled IRRP to be launched. The members of IRRP are grateful for that foundation and the opportunity to grow in friendship and develop our gifts through this work. The project has been a major undertaking, requiring untold hours of planning, communication, and dedicated effort. We have learned much that we can share with others who may be considering supporting refugees. We have known challenges and frustrations in trying to influence the course of other people's lives over a short time span. We are humbled in trying to support the family as they come to terms with difficult realizations and disappointments when we have not lived in similar situations. Our expectations for the family and our role have needed to change as we have learned what we can do and what the family has to do for themselves. We are blessed to have this opportunity to know this wonderful family, learn about their culture and customs, and celebrate their successes of living in our culture. The journey continues in friendship and we are hopeful for their future.

Sallie Jones
IRRP Coordinator

Coordinator's Report

Several projects are underway for April and the coming months. The Listening Day workshops at Birmingham Meeting are approaching as I write this, as is our intergenerational Quarterly Meeting at West Chester. We are also planning for our annual tubing and picnic on the Brandywine at Maryetta Clendenin's in July. We will be coupling it with Quarterly Meeting at Westtown as we did two years ago. The public meeting for worship is still in the planning stages; hopefully there will be a report on its progress at the April quarterly meeting.

The January Quarterly Meeting at Middletown drew much interest and a request for a follow up to provide more information on resources and options for aging members.

Please see the summary of the presentations on our website or contact me for a copy. There are handouts available as well.

A special meeting of the Planning Committee will be held in June to assess the past almost-five years of the coordinator's position and set goals for the future. The meeting will be open to anyone who wishes to attend. The time and date will be announced in May.

Due to the financial downturn changes are underway in staffing at the Yearly Meeting level. Please see the recent announcement from Arthur Larrabee for details.

Beth Lawn

Quarterly Meeting Youth Service Project *for*

Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children

The Young Peoples Group of West Chester Meeting invites people of all ages to participate by dropping off items at Quarterly Meeting at West Chester on April 26, 2009. Bring items for small "Someone Cares" packages to be given to children when they are removed from their homes and placed into foster care. These children often arrive into foster care with not a single personal belonging. These kits will give the children something of their own and will be accompanied by a small bear, hand-sewn by members of West Chester Meeting. Here's a sample list of items needed. Bring one item, a few, or a complete package. Your own ideas are welcome, too. We'll supply the kit to hold things.

For all ages:

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Comb or brush
- Bubble bath or other special bath items
- Barrettes or ponytail holders
- Small picture frame or photo album

For younger children:

- Small size picture books
- Crayons and coloring books
- Stickers and sticker book

For older children:

- Diary or journal w/pen
- Crossword, sudoku, or other word game/ puzzle books
- Disposable camera

Friends Association Needs Loving Foster Families

In Pennsylvania, 20,000 children are in foster care, 1,200 in Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties alone. When children come into foster care they are often traumatized, frightened and confused. They need the support of a loving family environment to help them thrive during a difficult time in their lives. Sadly, not every child can be placed with a family. In fact, almost one fourth of children in foster care in Pennsylvania are currently in group homes. Friends Association for Care & Protection of Children wants to see every foster child placed with caring, skilled foster parents. The right foster family can trans-

form the experience of foster care for a child, and fostering can be a rewarding experience for families. One foster mother put it this way, "People tell us we've done a good thing. We didn't do a good thing; we *got* a good thing. Love is contagious!"

Could you transform a child's life? Friends Association invites you to find out at one of their monthly Foster Care Information Nights. To learn more, or make a reservation at the next Information Night, contact Melrena Flowers, Director of Foster Care, at 610-431-3598, ext. 213 or m.flowers@friendsassoc.org.

Concord Quarterly Meeting

April 26, 2009

at

West Chester Monthly Meeting

425 N. High St. West Chester, PA 19380

8:00-8:15 **Sign-in**
8:15-9:45 **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**
9:45-10:30 **Program**

Restorative Justice: the YACC Program

Gwenn Knapp, a member of West Chester Meeting, is the district judge for the eastern area of the city that includes West Chester University. Seeking a meaningful alternative sentencing program for the many young adults charged with minor crimes in her court, Gwenn developed the YACC, (Young Adult Community Conferencing) program. Adapting restorative justice concepts, the program brings trained representatives of the community together with the offender to determine an appropriate alternative sentence. The goal is to allow the offender to "give back" to the community. Gwen will offer a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of restorative justice including information about the importance of community collaboration. Assisting her will be Christina Valocchi and Adrian Sagan, both of whom have worked with her in developing and implementing the YACC program. Learn about Restorative Justice and this local initiative that solves problems peacefully and gives young offenders the opportunity to grow from their experience.

10:30-10:45 **Break**
10:45-11:45 **Meeting for Worship with West Chester Meeting**
11:45-12:00 **Announcements**
12:00-1:00 **Lunch (provided by WC Meeting)**

Children and Youth Programs

8:00-ongoing **Childcare for all ages**
9:30-10:30 **Arts Project and Restorative Practices Story K-5 (pre-school as appropriate)**
9:30-11:30 **Middle School and High School group (5th through 12th grades) gather to collect items for *Service Project* (see p. 4), attend introduction to adult program, then move into their own program.**

MS and High School Program: *How Do We Right a Wrong?*

We will play a variation of Mafia, the sleuthing game. We'll identify the thief, the classmates who've been stolen from, and the bystanders. The game will lead into a role-playing session where all work together to find a way, beyond punishment, to make things right. The session is based on what you think would work in real life at your school and among friends and classmates. Led by John Scardina.

10:30-11:30 **FDS younger group: *Faith and Play* story, *Listening for God***
11:30-11:45 **Children and youth join Meeting for Worship**
12:00-1:00 **Lunch**

Directions to West Chester Meeting: Take High Street north through West Chester to Quaker Hill, at the corner of N. High and Marshall. Parking is on the street in front of the meetinghouse and in school lot around the corner on Marshall. Limited parking behind the meetinghouse for the handicapped.

CQM Calendar of Events: Pull Out and Post

April

- 9, 16, 27 Quakerism's Roots in Mysticism
7-8:30 p.m., Willistown Meeting. Discussion group series on this topic. Pre-registration required; call Anne Satterthwaite 610-399-9119.
- 18 Hickman Spring Clean-up
8 a.m.-noon; raindate April 25. Continental breakfast; contact Jen Mitman, 484.760.6306, jmitman at thehickman.org for more information.
- 19 Spring Worship at Chichester Meeting
11:15 a.m.; refreshments; contact Larry Walker for directions, 302.475.1098; evlw at earthlink.net.
- 26 Concord Quarterly Meeting at West Chester
Children and Middle School and Older program plus service project. See pp. 1, 4 and flyer for more info.

May

- 3 Planning Committee Meeting
7:30 p.m., Hickman living room.
- 31 5th Sunday Worship and Ministry Gathering
8:30-9:45 a.m., Willistown Meeting. Contact Michael Wajda at michaelw at fgcquaker.org or 610.429.3510 for more information.

June

- 5 Meet the Artist Reception: *Luis Morales*
6-8 p.m., The Hickman. "Diversity Works" art exhibit with featured nature photographer Luis Morales. Light refreshments. Artwork is available to view throughout the month of June.
- 7 Berry Festival
11:30-3; Wilmington Meeting. Celebrate summer with a music and fun filled day. See back page for details.
- 13 Birmingham Peace Fair
10-3; Birmingham Meeting. See inside cover for details.
- Hickman Yard Sale
8 a.m.-noon. Rain date June 14; Hickman and Sharpless Hall parking lots. Set-up 7 a.m.; \$10/space. Contact Jen Mitman for more information, 484.760.6306, jmitman at thehickman.org.
- 17 Summer on the Lawn Concert Series: *The Barbone Street Jazz Band*
6:30-7:30, The Hickman lawn. Bring a lawn chair. See www.thehickman.org for rain date.

July

- 17 Summer on the Lawn Concert Series
6:30-7:30 p.m., The Hickman lawn. Check www.thehickman.org for band.
- 26 Concord Quarterly Meeting at Westtown and Picnic and Tubing on Brandywine
Business and worship at Westtown, then fun on the Brandywine. Details in July newsletter.
- 30-August 2 Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Residential sessions at De Sales University. See PYM News and website for details.

Ongoing Gentle Yoga Willistown. 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Bring a blanket, mat, cushion. Call Ellen Simmons 610.356.3930 for more information.

Sacred Harp Singing Birmingham. Contact Laura Densmore 610.793.5102, LDensmo1 at swarthmore.edu.

Tanguy Sings 4th Saturday; home of Rich Aldred and Carrie Miles; raldred at comcast.net, or 610.399.6724 for details.

**Concord Quarterly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Held at Middletown Monthly Meeting
January 25, 2009**

Meeting began with a period of silent worship. Clerk Ellen Simmons welcomed everyone. All meetings were represented. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Nominating Committee Report was given by Sallie Jones. The committee reports on their ongoing efforts in faithful service to the Quarter. They express their hope that they may have representation by all monthly meetings in the Quarter, including Goshen and Willistown, and request that this desire be taken back to the clerks of those meetings by Friends present here.

The committee has learned of two resignations from their positions as At-Large Members of the Planning Committee: Margaret Brown of Westtown Meeting and Roelof Steijn of Wilmington Meeting. They nominated Ginny Sutton of Westtown Meeting to the planning committee for the purpose of personnel review, beginning July 1, 2009. **Friends approved.** A second name for a position as an At-Large Member of the Planning Committee will be brought to the April meeting for business. The committee also nominated David Bates of Middletown Meeting for the position of Assistant Clerk of the Quarter, beginning on July 1, 2009. **Friends approved.**

The committee reports that there are three vacancies on our Yearly Meeting's Nominating Committee allocated for our Quarter, but does not have any name to bring forth at this time. They request Friends to speak to a member of this committee if they would be interested in serving and expressed their gratitude to Richard Thompson of Willistown Meeting and Dick Carter of Wilmington Meeting for their service on this committee.

Lastly, the committee requested its gratitude be minuted for Beth Lawn's tireless efforts in supporting this committee. Friends accepted the report.

Treasurer's Report was given by Frank Herz. Frank reported on the current balances of the second quarter. The majority of the funds were noted to be allocated to go to our Yearly Meeting. One correction of 61 cents from the previous quarter was also noted. A Friend requested that the finances be reported on the website and in response, it was noted that it was decided in the past that due to the public nature of the information that our financial records not be published there. Frank agreed to bring sufficient copies of the report for all Friends present next quarter. Frank can also provide an electronic copy of the report by emailing him at ashbridgedesign at gmail.com and will send it via e-mail to the clerks of the Quarter. Friends accepted the report.

Report on the Peace Gathering was presented by Chris Smith. She thanked Friends for the financial support given to her by the Quarter. She reported it was the most challenging, and exhausting week of her life. Sessions started at 9 AM primarily at Arch Street Meeting, and went until 9:30PM. About 400 people attended, filling the entire bottom of the meetinghouse. The attenders were primarily from the three historic Peace Churches, but there were also other Christian denominations, plus Jewish and Muslim representation. There was morning worship followed by panel discussions with members of diverse religious backgrounds. Following lunch there were a variety of workshops on peace and conflict resolution topics. Each evening members were assigned to "anchor" groups to discuss queries related to peace work and individual experiences. The people attending were from Canada, Australia, and all over this country. Chris expressed her amazement at the work and effort to bring so many from so many places across the world.

She attended a workshop entitled "Speaking with the Military", led by two Mennonites who had been giving workshops on this subject for many years. The discussion ranged from the money spent and marketing strategies the military uses to target young people today, including video games making military careers appear glamorous, to conflict resolution efforts aimed at inner city youth. Chris reported that they were searching for ways to counteract these efforts.

The Wednesday night speaker was a young woman named Alexie Torres-Flemming. Alexie is the founder of Youth

Minutes cont'd from last page

Ministries for Peace and Justice in the Bronx. She was born and raised in that depressed area, managed to get a college education, and left for a good job in Chicago. Despite living the "good life", Alexie felt something was missing; she had a need to help folks in her old neighborhood not as fortunate as she. She left her job, moved to the Bronx, and never looked back. She mused that sometimes it is easier and more glamorous to save someone in another country than someone here. But where you really need to concentrate is in your own backyard.

The Saturday interfaith service Chris was assigned to took her to Manayunk to a converted warehouse which is now a synagogue. The service was primarily Jewish with a choir from West Philadelphia. It was clear to her that much thought, work and love went into the service planning. Lunch was provided by an Arab caterer. In the afternoon, all gathering participants took part in a march to the shop of a gun dealer in North Philadelphia whose guns were noted to frequently be used illegally. Near the gun store various people spoke of their experiences with gun violence. This was interspersed with singing. Chris conveyed her impression and hope that all the material from gathering evaluations is going to be reviewed and that information will be used to build on this event. A proposed follow-up conference is being discussed for two years from now. At present groups are still meeting. There continue to be small groups holding vigils at Colosimo's Gun Shop in hopes that he will eventually sign the Ten Point Gun Seller's Code of Conduct. Friends accepted the report and minuted their gratitude to Thomas Swain, Clerk of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Friends also minuted their gratitude to Chris Smith as our Quarter's representative. Beth Lawn reminded Friends that Chris Smith is available to monthly meetings in the Quarter. Her contact email is neonur1 at verizon.net.

PYM Governance Structure Discussion was begun by Assistant Clerk, Monica Holland, asking if there are any concerns brought forth from monthly meetings. Westtown reports that the one clerk seemed a concern as well as the term limits on the clerks. With the exceptions listed they approved of the proposals. West Chester also discussed the matter and shared the one clerk concern, but because of a reassurance by Thomas Swain that this would not be a problem, accepted the report as a whole. Goshen had a concern about the training of clerks throughout our Yearly Meeting and the variety of the training, that the diversity of the people serving be preserved. Birmingham reviewed the report, accepted the report as a whole. Concord has handed the recommendations to members and will take it up in February. Willistown has not considered the report. Middletown will consider the report in February.

A Friend voiced three concerns. The first is the difficulty in finding a clerk now, and his concern that it will be harder to find someone willing to serve as clerk under increased responsibilities. Second, having a second clerk for Interim Meeting offers a leadership development opportunity that would be lost. Third, Quakers feel the need to share power, but this proposal consolidates power. Some Friends present shared these concerns. Another Friend inquired if there is a possibility that the decision of one clerk or two clerks be left open for each incoming clerk or clerks to decide. Monica noted that this will be before the Yearly Meeting in March and encouraged Friends to be in attendance to thresh these and any other concerns out at this time.

Coordinator's Report was given by Beth Lawn. She reported that most of her energy has been directed towards the upcoming workshop on Listening scheduled for April 4th at Birmingham Meeting. Plans are progressing, and she has been working on the day's activities with Deborah Cooper and George Schaefer of the Friends Counseling Service. She reported on the outreach activities performed through the fall and winter, including an advertisement for monthly meetings' Christmas events. Planning continues for potential middle school activities and for a public meeting for worship (taking place in the spring). Beth spoke briefly on the Gathering on Peace which she attended, including the witness against gun violence, and will be presenting more detail in the upcoming newsletter. Friends accepted the report.

Iraqi Refugee Resettlement Project Report was not read due to the lateness of the hour and will be posted on the Quarter's website. **Quaker Quest Report** was not read due to the lateness of the hour and will be posted on the Quarter's website. **Burning Concern response from Birmingham Monthly Meeting** was held over due to the lateness of the hour. Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted, John Lavin, Recording Clerk

Peace Fair

at

Birmingham

Saturday, June 13, 2009 10am-3pm

**Birmingham Quaker Meetinghouse
1245 S. Birmingham Road, West Chester 19382**

One block south from the corner of Birmingham Road and Rt. 926 (Street Road)



Come learn about area peace organizations
Visit the Peace Center at Birmingham
Tour the historic meetinghouse and enjoy the peace garden
Attic treasures/used book and DVD sale
Native plant sale
Children's activities
Food and refreshments
Free admission

FUN!

All proceeds will go to purchase metal detectors which will be used by U.N. programs to rid former war zones of hidden unexploded land mines that continue to threaten lives. Please email ravine-house at aol.com or phone Toni and Ted Brinton at 610-388-6006 for more information.

Let's wage peace together. Please join us!

Beth Lawn, Editor
773 E. 24th Street
Chester, PA 19013

Clerk: Ellen Simmons
Asst. Clerk: Monica Holland
Recording Clerk: John Lavin
Treasurer: Frank Herz
Coordinator: Beth Lawn

Address Service Requested

Concord Quarter Meetings

Birmingham
Concord
Goshen
Middletown
West Chester
Westtown
Willistown
Wilmington



Berry Festival ~ Sunday June 7th, 11:30am-3pm
Wilmington Friends Meeting

Music indoors and out, food, games, fun for all ages

Locally grown organic strawberries with ice cream!

Homemade fresh-squeezed lemonade!

Giant Slide and Bungy Trampolines!

Face Painting, Plant Sale and other fun kids' activities all day!

Advance Tickets \$10 - At the Door \$15 - Kids Under 12 Always FREE!

Doors open at 11:30. Refreshments available for purchase
including lunch, berries & ice cream!

Rain or Shine. Feel free to bring lawn chairs or blankets.

BRING THIS AD on Sunday, June 7th, 2009 to enjoy the BERRY FESTIVAL for the ADVANCE TICKET PRICE OF \$10.00!

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