



Quarter Sets Priorities at May Meeting

The Planning Committee and other interested members of the Quarter gathered at The Hickman in late May to review the first five years of the Coordinator position and set priorities for the coming months. Here is an excerpt from the minutes of that meeting:

Prior to the meeting, Beth Lawn, Coordinator, had prepared a detailed five-year summary as well as a one-page list of events broken into four categories: Quarterly Meeting function and structure; Programs and Events; Intergenerational, Children and Youth; and Specific Monthly Meeting Support. These were sent to all Monthly Meetings, the Planning Committee, people on the search and oversight committees, and to Wright Horne at PYM.

After a period of worshipful silence, clerk David Scott of Wilmington Meeting posed these queries: What were the hopes, expectations, and wishes for the coordinator job when Beth was hired in October 2004? Have they been fulfilled? What has worked well and what has not?

Friends concurred that Beth has ably and grace-

fully fulfilled all the expectations in the job description. Specifically, she has:

- Written, edited and published an interesting, informative newsletter which is read in circles wider than the Quarter.
- Provided a reliable daytime staff presence to make phone calls, send emails, set up meetings, find out information, coordinate and support events.
- Linked CQM to PYM.
- Set up, advertised and facilitated workshops and events requested by the Quarter.
- Visited and developed relationships with each of the 8 monthly meetings in the Quarter.
- Attended and provided reports at all Quarterly Meetings; attended and taken minutes at all Planning Committee meetings; attended and at one point clerked Nominating Committee meetings; facilitated and attended 5th Sunday Worship and Ministry gatherings and helped discern where the energy is flowing for this group.
- Assisted the Clerk and the Planning Committee

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Picnic and Tubing on the Brandywine at July Quarterly Meeting

Westtown Meeting is our host for business and worship in the morning, then we head out to Chester County for an afternoon of fun and food at Mary Clendenin's home on the banks of the Brandywine. Child care will be provided during a short business meeting and worship at Westtown. If you can't make the whole day, join us for whatever part fits

into your schedule. See flyer on page 5 for the complete schedule and information on what to bring. All tubers must sign a hold harmless statement and all children must have written permission from their parents to go into the water. A map to Maryetta's is on the back cover.

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with CQM business and Quarterly Meetings.

- Provided essential spiritual nurture and pastoral care to monthly meetings and individuals.

It was noted that one of Beth's great strengths is her ability to listen deeply and to actively solicit ideas from monthly meetings. Friends feel that she is both a listener and a discerner.

The group then began to focus on the present and future needs of CQM. We need to:

- Find a way to balance both Inreach and Outreach- we need both and we need more Quakers. We are all ministers, we are all outreach agents.
- Help the "small, struggling" meetings.
- Provide Intervisitation on an organized, regular schedule.
- Build the confidence of Friends in our Quarter to serve and take active roles. One way to do this is

to keep jobs small ("small goals easily attained"), and also use our energies wisely and grace-fully, and be inclusive. There is a shining place for everyone.

- Invite the Coordinator to have conversations with each monthly meeting- what works and what doesn't for them; how can the Coordinator help?

We noted that some of these wishes are being addressed: Public Meeting for Worship will begin on June 27th at 11am at Bayard Rustin Park in West Chester. The Listening and Welcoming the Stranger workshop held at Birmingham MM and attended by 56 people from CQM and beyond provided experience in practical and pastoral skills for outreach.

We need to personally invite people to Planning Committee, workshops and Quarterly Meeting.

Finances to support the coordinator job need to be discussed forthrightly at the next Planning Committee meeting.

Quarter Happenings

Public Meeting for Worship

Holding a meeting for worship in a public space is being tested as a means of outreach to the larger community. The first one will have taken place on a Saturday morning in June at Bayard Rustin Park in West Chester by the time you receive this publication. Subsequent Public Meetings for Worship will be held upon assessment of the June gathering. Call Rich Ailes 610.543.7321 or Beth Lawn 610.872.1522 for more information.

Quarter Invited to Meet Elizabeth Walmsley

PYM Middle School Coordinator, Elizabeth Walmsley, will visit Wilmington Meeting on Sunday September 27th from 11:30am- 1:30pm. Elizabeth comes at the invitation of the Religious Education Committee for a luncheon and discussion of Middle School and Youth Programming. Ken Brick, clerk of the REC, extends this invitation to the Quarter: "We would very much like to open this to the entire Quarter in order to use Elizabeth's time most beneficially as well as to collaborate and connect amongst ourselves with those who are interested in Middle School Programming. We expect this will be an open discussion with some problem solving focus in order to energize our older children's programming as well as to learn more about PYM."

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The *Franklinia* Tree at Concord Meeting

This article was found among the papers of Thompson Palmer, a beloved member of Concord Meeting who passed away in 1999. It is estimated that it was written in the 1960s. An update on the tree and a short biography of Tommy written by his son, Clarkson, follow.

On the right side of the driveway entering Concord Meeting grounds is a *Franklinia* tree (*F. alatahama*) planted in memory of a member, Frank Webster (1876-1961). It is now about 18 ft. high with a spread of 15 ft. It is in healthy condition, and has bloomed abundantly for many years.

The *Franklinia* is an unusual tree that was first discovered, and later saved from extinction, by two Quakers, John and William Bartram. It is distinguished by its conspicuous three-inch single white flowers which bloom over a few months from August into late September, making it the latest blooming flowering tree. The handsome foliage turns light red before it falls.

The history of the *Franklinia* is interesting. The Bartrams were the first to find it, in September 1765, when on a plant exploring trip in southwest Georgia near the Altamaha River. They were impressed by trees which were blooming at that time. They did not try to get propagating material then. However, William Bartram revisited the grove in 1770, 1773, and 1777. He collected seeds, and perhaps seedlings and cuttings, and sent them on to the Bartram Garden and to eager plant collectors in England. After 1777 only two people are known to have visited the Georgia grove, which was two to three acres in size and the only place it was ever found. In 1790 a Bartram cousin, Moses Marshall, from Chester County, PA collected propagating material for the Humphrey Marshall Garden. Humphrey Marshall was the father of Moses. The last known person to have seen the *Franklinia* in the wild was nurseryman John Lyon in 1803. The *Franklinia* grove disappeared, probably due to extreme weather, flooding, or settlers cutting them



Franklinia tree with blossoms

down. Numerous efforts to rediscover the *Franklinia* have failed to find a trace of it.

Thus, it had been saved from extinction, though there were narrow escapes. A Catalog of Bartram's Gardens Nursery in 1792 listed only one plant of *Franklinia* for sale. After Bartram's Nursery was given up the collection of trees and shrubs was neglected. It was reported that wandering cows nearly debarked a remaining tree but fortunately it survived. Probably the tree at Concord was propagated from this remaining tree. By the early 1900's the *Franklinia* was offered by a few nurseries. The plants were started from seeds, cuttings, or even root layers which took years before they could be separated from the mother plant.

Another interesting fact that involves Concord Meeting was that after the death of his first wife, John Bartram married Ann Mendenhall who lived on a farm in Concord Township. The wedding was in the Concord Meeting House on November 11, 1729, and was likely the first marriage in that building, since it had been erected in 1728, just the year before. It was nearly a twenty-mile trip for John to "woo" Ann in those days, and trips were generally on horseback. They had nine children who grew to adulthood. One of them, John, Jr. managed the farm and Nursery after John's death

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Franklinia cont'd from previous page

in 1777. Son William traveled for five years through the South, returning in 1788. The only book he ever wrote was a lengthy account of this trip. William never married, and he continued to live at the Bartram home until his death in 1834.

There are other notable trees growing on the Concord Meeting Grounds and Cemetery. Near the Meeting House, there is a large ginkgo and a large European beech. Also, there is a row of large white ash, and two huge American Beech trees. In the large cemetery is a much-admired American Linden [Linden?] of near record-breaking size. It has a circumference of 15 ½", and spread of branches of 80 ft. Perhaps the most cherished tree is the white dogwood, also very large, with a diameter of 90 inches and a spread of branches 40 ft. wide. A gravestone under it is dated 1844. A good picture of this tree in bloom is available at the Meeting House. [Note: This tree was severely damaged in a winter storm, and has since been removed.] There are good-sized specimens of both American and Pernyi Holly, both producing quantities of red fruit. Also to be seen is an impressive English Boxwood.

Since 1950 a number of other good quality trees have been added, some as memorials to Members. This list of trees includes a white fringe tree, Kousa dogwood, Japanese Red maple, Concolor fir, Stewartia pseudocamellia and serrata, Lebanon cedar, blue Atlas cedar, grafted blue Colorado spruce, sugar maple, white pine, Himalayan pine, Douglas firs, sourwood, white oak, Japanese flowering cherry, English holly, pink dogwood, Hinoki cyprus, and group of dwarf Colorado spruce. There is still room for more trees.

Thompson Palmer

Update from Larry and Elizabeth Walker

The *Franklinia* tree was damaged about 15 years ago in a very bad ice storm and half of the tree



Franklinia flower

collapsed under the weight of the ice. The rest of the *Franklinia* continued to thrive, and new branches grew on the damaged side. Then last June in a wind storm the same side was damaged when a large branch from a nearby tree fell on that same half of the tree. The rest of the tree bloomed vigorously in the late summer so we hope that the *Franklinia* will survive and again send out new branches. The Meeting plans to add a smaller tree to the plant collection on the grounds to ensure the continued presence of this beautiful and rare American native tree.

Thompson Palmer Bio

Thompson Palmer (1903-1999) was a lifelong Friend, first at Chester Meeting, then Concord Meeting, which he served in many ways. After taking a degree in botany at Penn State, he came in the 1920s to Concord (where his first Palmer ancestor had settled from England) to work with Styers Nurseries. Later he lived for over fifty years in Thornton where he developed his own small nursery and native plant and rock gardens; much of that property has now become Concord Park of Thornbury Township.

Clarkson Palmer

Picnic and Tubing on the Brandywine

July 26, 2009



Concord Quarterly Meeting

The day begins with Business and Worship at

Westtown Monthly Meeting

East side of Westtown School, Westtown, PA 19395

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 8:00-8:15 | Sign-in |
| 8:15-10:00 | Meeting for Worship for Business |
| 10:10-10:30 | Hymn sing with Westtown Meeting |
| 10:30-11:30 | Meeting for Worship with Westtown Meeting
(child care provided during Business and Worship) |
| 11:30 | Announcements |
| 11:45 | Leave for Picnic and Tubing Social |
| 12:00-4:30 | Potluck Picnic and Tubing at Maryetta Clendenin's
(Potluck and games at Westtown Meeting if it rains) |

What to Bring: Dish to share, swimsuits, instruments, *Rise Up Singing!*

All tubers are required to do the following:

- wear old sneakers and shorts
- sign a hold harmless agreement at the site
- children under 18 must have permission slips signed by parents
- young children must wear a flotation device
- parents are responsible for their children and will be asked to help with "creek watching" to ensure everyone's safety

Directions to Westtown Meeting: From Rte. 926 take Shady Grove Way to Westtown School entrance; meetinghouse is on the left in circle. Park in big lot on the right near school entrance if able to walk; otherwise in circle in front of meetinghouse. **Map and Directions to Clendenin's** at Westtown Meeting and at www.pym.org/concordquarter.

CQM Calendar of Events: Pull Out and Post

July

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Westtown Lake Suppers

6:30-twilight, Westtown lake at Westtown School. See p. 9 for details.

15 Summer on the Lawn Concert Series: *The Good Foot Oldies and Motown Band*

6:30-7:30 p.m. No rain date. All concerts will be held on The Hickman front lawn at Biddle & High Streets. Access to lawn is available on Biddle Street as well as through the main entrance to the West Chester Friends School on High St. Parking is available along both Biddle and High streets.

26 Concord Quarterly Meeting at Westtown and Picnic and Tubing on Brandywine

Business and worship at Westtown, then fun on the Brandywine. See p. 1 and flyer insert for details.

30-August 2 Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Residential sessions at De Sales University. See PYM News and website for details.

August

5, 12, 19, 26 Westtown Lake Suppers

See info above and p. 9.

8 Annual Chicken Barbecue

4-7 p.m. Birmingham Meeting. Blades of Grass bluegrass band; barbecue chicken and vegetarian entrees; local summer vegetables, drinks, desserts. Take out available. Contact Debra Sparre 610.696.4117 or Dick Brigham 610.793.1333 for tickets. Proceeds benefit charity.

19 Summer on the Lawn Concert Series: *Minas Music Brazilian Jazz Trio*

6:30-7:30 p.m., The Hickman lawn. Rain date the next night.

September

20 Fall Worship at Chichester Meeting

11:15 a.m.; refreshments; contact Larry Walker for directions, 302.475.1098; evlw at earthlink.net.

October

2 Diversity Works meet the Artist Reception

6-8 p.m., The Hickman. All are welcome; refreshments will be served. Please see www.thehickman.org for more information.

25 Quarterly Meeting at Willistown

More information to follow.

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 West Chester Monthly Meeting
April 26, 2009

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

Concord Quarterly Meeting Tuition Aid Report was given by Monica Holland. She reported that for the 2009 to 2010 school year approximately \$469 will be given to 29 students from five Monthly Meetings who are attending four different Friends schools. She noted that as is the custom, the checks will be mailed to the schools at the end of the summer. Monica reminded Friends of the decision last year that there was no need to have a committee for this work, as this aid distribution is an administrative function only and is now handled by the assistant clerk. The number of students applying increased by 40%, and Friends Fiduciary's payout this year was noted to be unchanged from prior years, but it is anticipated that it could go down next year. Friends accepted the report.

Nominating Committee Report was given by Sallie Jones. She reports that the committee has two nominations requiring the Quarter's approval. First, for a position as an At-Large Member of the Planning Committee, Monica Holland of Middletown Monthly Meeting was nominated for a three year term beginning July 1st, 2009. **Friends approved.** Second, Peter Lane of Westtown Monthly Meeting was nominated for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Nominating Committee, also a three year term. **Friends approved.**

On behalf of the committee, Sallie reminded Friends that between April and July Quarterly Meetings the Quarter's fiscal and administrative years will come to a close. She expressed her deep gratitude for the service of all the Quarter's officers and committee members who served the Quarter so faithfully and tirelessly. The committee expressed the hope that those Friends completing their terms of service take the opportunity now to speak with the Friends soon taking up their new roles to help familiarize them with the expectations and duties in their new positions. Lastly, Sallie expressed the wish of the committee that each Monthly Meeting's nominating committee take up the concern of vacancies on the Quarterly Meeting's Planning Committee and Nominating Committee to raise up names of Friends that might enrich the Quarter and give all Monthly Meetings representation within the Quarter. A Friend brought up the concern of archiving and Beth Lawn responded that she is taking care of the archival of the Quarter's minutes. Friends accepted the report.

Treasurer's Report was prepared by Frank Herz who could not attend but copies were distributed. Frank's report was on the current balances of the Third Quarter. It was noted that additional funds have come in since and that they will be reported in the Fourth Quarter's balances. The Clerk stated that the Budget will be presented at July Quarterly Meeting due to unreceived covenants from Monthly Meetings. A question arose about the payment to Yearly Meeting and it was noted that the covenant and our part of the Coordinator's support will be sent in the Fourth Quarter.

Iraqi Refugee Resettlement Project Report was given by Sallie Jones. She hoped that Friends read the report from the past Quarter, which was published in the Newsletter. She stated there is no formal report to give at this time but that she would entertain questions. She noted that the balance of funds contributed to IRRP is being used to pay a portion of the Jumaa family's rent. There is some hope about a job opportunity for the Jumaa family. The other refugee family in Exton, who has been helped by members of IRRP, is doing well, and looking forward to supporting relatives who are coming to the area through the refugee program. Though IRRP is essentially laid down, they do stop in to help and support them but want the families to be self sufficient. Sallie related the group's relationship to the Quarter and Monthly Meetings as somewhat independent but which began out of leadings of Friends within the Quarter and has relied on the Quarter and Monthly meetings for spiritual and organizational support. Sallie related that the group is not considering supporting another family because the energy of the group is not sufficient. Sallie did say she and Gwynne Ormsby have spoken to other faith communities who expressed interest in supporting an additional refugee family, but there are no plans for sponsoring another Iraqi refugee family at this time. A Friend asked if the government has published or raised the numbers of refugees accepted. It is estimated that 17,000 Iraqi refugees will come to the U.S. this year. The clerk expressed her gratitude to the IRRP committee for the time, organization, care, and love given to this effort as well as the Kendal community for all of their help with the Jumaa family. Friends accepted the report.

Coordinator's Report was given by Beth Lawn. She reported on the tremendous success of the Learning to Listen workshop held at Birmingham Monthly Meeting. Close to sixty people participated and 16 monthly meetings were represented, including seven of eight monthly meetings within the Quarter. She expressed her sincere gratitude to Birmingham for hosting the event and also to Deborah Cooper and George Schaefer for their help in organizing and leading the day's activities. Beth noted the event was known

Minutes cont'd from previous page

and spoken well of widely within our Yearly Meeting, including a letter to the General Secretary of the Yearly Meeting, Arthur Larrabee, sent in thanks for the experiences of the day.

Beth reports that the annual picnic and tubing on the Brandywine will be held again this year in July and following Quarterly Meeting at Westtown, Friends are invited to Maryetta Clendenin's home. Further details will be announced shortly.

Beth shared with Friends a seasoning of issues of aging. This was a response which was raised up from January's Quarterly Meeting program. She reported that George Schaefer, the newly appointed Care and Aging Coordinator for PYM, is looking to develop informational sessions on topics around the needs of aging members, and Beth may soon work with him on additional projects for our Quarter. George has asked Beth to co-facilitate an interest group on Spirituality and Aging at Annual Sessions in July. A proposal for this interest group has been submitted to the Yearly Meeting planning sessions group. Beth will report on the progress of these ideas as they develop. Beth noted that a summary of the January Quarterly Meeting program is available on the website.

Beth reported that there will be a special meeting of the Quarter's Planning Committee to be held in June to assess the nearly-five years of the Coordinator's position and set goals for the future. The meeting will be open to anyone and Beth encouraged all Friends to attend. The time and date will be announced in May after Planning Committee meets.

Beth noted the announcements given by our Yearly Meeting of the changes there. One position has been eliminated, that of Peace and Justice Coordinator, and several others have been cut to part time. Beth referred Friends to the recent announcement from Arthur Larrabee for details.

Monica Holland expressed her deep satisfaction and gratitude for the Coordinator. She asked all Friends present to go back to our Monthly Meetings and express the need to continue the support of the Quarter and the Coordinator, so that this wonderful service can continue to be given to our communities. Monica asked that if support from a meeting needs to be cut, would the meeting notify the Quarter as far in advance as possible (preferably a year) so that the Quarter would be able to adjust to the deficit. Friends accepted the report.

Public Meeting for Worship Rich Ailes presented a proposal for a called Public Meeting for Worship, which had been discussed at the Quarter's Planning Committee. Rich was asked by a Friend from his Meeting if this is a leading or a hair-brained scheme. The idea came to him after learning of the first Quakers' practice of using Public Meetings for Worship to "evangelize", to bring in people to Friends. He expressed his excitement of bringing our worship to a wider community. Our worship which unites Friends is something Quakers should publicize and not hide. He admitted this is something that should not be undertaken lightly and is asking the Quarter for guidance.

A Friend expressed her resonance with the proposal. Her Meeting was concerned about taking up something as large as Quaker Quest, but felt this would be more manageable in size and effort. Other Friends related personal experiences of many people who are curious about our method of worship. Another Friend asked that more seasoning and planning be done before moving forward.

Rich noted that Beth Lawn has already researched information on parks in and around West Chester which seemed a logical location, where the worship would be visible to the public. Beth has also looked into using Exton Mall space but that would cost \$200, and require a proof of insurance. Beth expressed these extra concerns as a reason to use a park instead of a mall.

Friends approved the formation of a committee to organize this event. This committee will report on the progress at the next Quarterly Meeting. **The Quarter approved allowing the committee to move forward with the worship if they are led to do so.**

Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
John Lavin
Recording Clerk

Quarter Happenings cont'd from p. 2

Westtown Meeting Lake Suppers

Westtown Meeting members invite all to join them for food and fellowship at their Westtown Lake suppers Wednesday evenings in July and August from 6:30-twilight. Bring a main dish, vegetable or side dish, salad or dessert. Also bring your own utensils and dinnerware. Beverages, hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. In case of rain supper will be in the lower level of the meetinghouse. Call Nancy Bernhardt for more information at 610.565.8387, or 610.742.5189.

Directions to the Lake: From Rte. 926 take Westtown Rd. north; bear left as you approach the school, go under the stone bridge and turn right through the gate at the school. Turn left at the second drive and go down the hill to the lake. Picnic area is to the right along an unpaved road.

5th Sunday Worship and Ministry Gathering

Due to other obligations Michael Wajda has needed to step down as convener of the 5th Sunday Worship and Ministry Gathering. Those present at the May gathering decided to try a new approach to sharing across the meetings. We will suspend the gatherings for now and ask all interested persons to attend Quarterly Meeting in October at Willistown. At that time we will talk about the value of the gatherings to the meetings and the Quarter and discuss what format continuing to meet would best take. More information will be available as we get closer to the October Quarterly Meeting. Call Beth Lawn 610.872.1522 with any questions or concerns.

Employment Opportunities

Caretaker at Chichester Meeting

Concord Friends Meeting seeks a live-in caretaker for historic Chichester Friends Meetinghouse, located in Boothwyn, PA. The caretaker is responsible for maintaining the meetinghouse, the caretakers' house, and approximately 9 acres of property. In addition, duties shall include opening the meetinghouse two or more times a year for meeting for worship, sharing some of the history of the Meeting with visitors, hosting school groups, and being a Friendly presence in the community.

For information please contact Raymond Hamilton, 613 Haudie Ann, Boothwyn, PA 19061, or rayham613 at aol.com.

Caretaker/groundskeeper at Oakland Friends Burial Ground in West Chester

West Chester Friends Meeting is looking for a caretaker/grounds keeper to occupy its house at Oakland Friends Burial Ground. Applicant should have knowledge of cemetery maintenance and procedures as well as basic skills for the upkeep of the house. Other duties may also be required. In exchange for the work the rental fee will be at a reduced rate. Familiarity with Quaker process is preferred. Background check, credit check, and references will be required. For further information or to receive an application call 610-696-0491 or email westchesterfriendsmeeting at juno.com.

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter
Volume 5, Issue 3 July, 2009

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

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

Address Service Requested

Concord Quarter Meetings

Birmingham
Concord
Goshen
Middletown
West Chester
Westtown
Willistown
Wilmington



Map to Maryetta Clendenin's for Picnic and Tubing July 26 from 12-4:30.

Location: 1005 Brandywine Creek Road, Coatesville, PA 19320, immediately upstream from Harvey's Bridge Rd.

See flyer on p. 5 for details. Questions contact Beth Lawn at 610-872-1522, or concordquarter at verizon dot net.

Editor: Beth Lawn
Phone: 610-872-1522
E-mail: concordquarter at verizon.net

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