



[Spot]Light on *Dorothy Carroll*

I had no idea of the immensity of the task I had undertaken when I decided to profile Dorothy Carroll in the CQM News. How does one capture the spirit of a woman like Dorothy in 1,000 words or less? If I don't succeed in my task it won't be her fault, however; to know and be known by others is exactly what Dorothy wants most. She has invested much time and energy learning and teaching the skills people need to know themselves and each other fully, and to communicate effectively in the world. The result of this work in Dorothy's own life is a heart that is fully open to the beauty of others and has devoted itself to creating right relationships between all peoples.

Dorothy Harrison Carroll was born on December 6, 1922 in Nyack, NY, the middle child of a family of five. She grew up on the banks of the Hudson River and spent most of her time outdoors. When looking back on her life, she sees this experience of year-long immersion in the natural world as seminal, as was her later time at Barnard College. At college, this raised-Episcopal country girl met international students and Jewish girls from the Bronx with whom she spent endless hours talking and planning. They were challenged to "think big and take a world view...Activism was in the air." Dorothy developed into a scholar and critical thinker, laying the foundation for her later work as an educator and activist. She eventually got



Dorothy Carroll

her masters in elementary education and taught 4th and 6th grades, and after being awarded a doctorate in education, was on the faculty at Beaver College (now Arcadia University). She left this position to care for her ill mother and later set up a private practice in her home to teach brain integration to special needs children. Dorothy and her son Gabrell, with whom she shares her home, developed this system together

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Jorge Arauz to Speak on AVP at October Quarterly Meeting

Jorge Arauz will speak about the Alternatives to Violence Project at our upcoming gathering at Wil-listown Meeting October 25th. A leader in this program for years, Jorge lives with his family at Casa Amistad, a ministry house he established to bring renewal to the North Philadelphia neighborhood

where he works as a counselor. A member of Chestnut Hill Meeting, Jorge has issued a call to Friends to be faithful to our testimonies and work to bring peace and simplicity to our lives as individuals, members of meeting communities, and the world. Details of the day can be found on the flyer insert.

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and taught it to educators in Russia.

While living in Greenwich Village and working as a geologic research worker shortly after leaving Barnard, Dorothy met Carl Lenk. They married and moved to Wilmington, DE, and in 1949, to the former Quaker Orthodox meetinghouse in Birmingham Township, PA. Dorothy wanted to live in the country so that their children, who eventually numbered five, could have the enriching experiences of nature she had had as a child. The family home is surrounded by trees and open fields where horses graze, with a deck overlooking the fields and garden that invites one to sit and be still. It was here that Dorothy discovered Quakerism.

Birmingham Friends Meeting is literally right across the road and north a short, two-minute walk. A workshop on racism first brought Dorothy to the Meeting more than 50 years ago, and the opportunity for worship in the silence and connection with kindred spirits has kept her there ever since. The physical proximity of her home to the meetinghouse has allowed her to open it to Meeting activities such as Bible Study and Youth Committee, a gathering of middle and high schoolers for service projects and consideration of issues important to youth. Dorothy feels a strong spiritual grounding in this house built in 1845 of serpentine stone from a nearby quarry and worshipped in by Quakers for almost 100 years. The ancient stone, the old Quaker cemetery next door, the fields and trees, the cicadas and crickets and katydids singing day and night, and the prayers of the ancestors still felt in the walls do indeed give even a visitor a sense of timelessness and connection to something larger.

And connection to something larger for Dorothy Carroll means not only openness to the presence of God, but to the spark of God found in all humanity. From her spiritual grounding in Quakerism and her work in Co-Counseling, Dorothy lives a life of striving to bring all people together in our common humanity so that we may learn to respect and care for each other and promote each other's growth and well-being. She considers finding the Black community in West Chester and friendships

with people there to be among the highlights of her life. She has been treasurer of the West Chester Branch of the NAACP for some years, and was among those active in challenging the local school board when it considered rescinding its decision to name a middle school after Bayard Rustin, a Quaker and a gay African-American civil rights activist. She has used her experience as a teacher to lead workshops for whites working to end racism locally and at Friends General Conference, and has published an article on racism in Friends Journal. She initiated the revitalization of the Human Relations Council in West Chester in 1997 in response to discriminatory practices by banks and was among its first chairpersons; last year she was honored for her work as a Special Guest at the HRC's annual awards luncheon. Dorothy traveled with Mary Arnett to Bosnia and Croatia, visiting 22 peace organizations and leaving AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) manuals there to help get the program started in those countries. Dorothy was a delegate to the 1995 International Women's Conference in Beijing; traveled to Cuba to interview elder women there and wrote about their lives for FJ; and counts among her friends a woman in Trinidad, colleagues in Russia, and women from the Co-Counseling community around the world.

A very busy, active person all her life, Dorothy has found that recent health issues are forcing her to slow down, and with that to take stock of her life. While maintaining passion for her work in the Meeting and the local and larger communities, she is re-affirming the primacy of relationships with her children, her family, her friends and God. She says her focus now is on "looking at how I love people and how I am loved, looking at where the relationships aren't as deep as I want, and working on changing that. I don't want to spend a lot of time on the surface, but rather [want] to move into depth....I want to be in the presence of God, and be aware of when I fall out of it. I want to live every moment well."

Beth Lawn

Material for this article was taken from personal interviews with Dorothy and from a profile written by Ruth MacFadyen for the HRC of Greater West Chester's 2008 awards banquet.

Wilmington FDS Garden Wins Horticultural Center Prize

In May, the FDS at WMM began working on a raised garden at the Meeting House. The garden plot, which was square in shape, was divided into four smaller areas by stepping stones donated by Karon Massado. In the plots we planted strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins and basil. Around the edges were marigolds to keep the bugs away. Sunflower plants donated by Paul Wishengrad grew into majestic flowers that towered over the rest of the garden. Looks like the birds are really going to enjoy themselves! In the back, behind the raspberry bushes, is our composter. Next year's garden is going to be very fertile!

The children helped at all stages, with the placement of the stepping stones and the planting of the crops. After the plants were in, they checked to make sure the weeds didn't take over. In July, a group of the kids were present to talk to the Delaware Horticulture Center judges who came by to check out the garden for the Children's City Garden Contest. As the tomatoes arrived on the vine they were picked and delivered to Emmanuel Dining Hall. Then the cucumbers came and Heather O'Donnell showed up one Sunday morning with ingredients to turn the cucumbers into pickles. The best pickles ever! Since we only made one jar, we put them up for a silent auction and made money for a donation to Greg Mortensen's organization, "Pennies for Peace," that is building schools in Pakistan. Anna and Luke Fahey were the highest bidders of the scrumptious pickles!



Julia Randolph-Reed, Zoe Wishengrad,
Greta Randolph-Reed.



In September, our FDS was invited to attend the awards ceremony of the Delaware Horticulture Center. Three of our FDS children, Zoe Wishengrad, and Julia and Greta Randolph-Reed, were present to accept our prize, First Place in the Community Youth Category. Part of the prize was a plant we were given called a Marie Bleu New Jersey Tea Plant. Looks like we'll be expanding our garden project!

Rosalind Freeman, RE Coordinator

Pansies cont'd from p. 4

Spirit are largely unknown to us, but I had a feeling that our father was, that spring, subconsciously preparing us for being without him. He knew we girls would take his passing especially hard, so I think he nudged us, all four, to buy the pansies, so that late into the summer and fall, when we tended those cheerful representatives of life, we would be cheered and reminded that he

lives on, even though his body is gone. He is still helping us, encouraging us, advising us on a different plane now. Like George Fox, he came to walk cheerfully over the world with that mischievous wink, that happy twinkle in his eyes, and that cheerful smile that came through into those special, quiet, mischievous, sweet pansies after he left this earth.

Pansies in Passing

By Brenda Beadenkopf

My story begins in the springtime, a few months before my father, Charlie Walker, passed away in July, 2004.

I was in the local greenhouse looking for a flat of springtime flowers to plant in a new bed beside our road. A scruffy flat of pansies caught my eye – on sale because they were in such bad shape – dry, mangled, and lifeless. I'd never planted pansies before, but something was nudging me to take advantage of this bargain. So I brought them home, and after planting them, noticed they were taking to their new location with vigor and joy. They flourished with multicolored beauty, their childlike little faces grinning at me as I cared for them and talked to them.

Yes, I like to talk to my flowers as I plant, water, weed and mulch them. All flowers have personalities to me. For instance, roses are distinctly aware of their magnificent but frail beauty. They need a lot of extra and tender care in order to flourish. They are not a particularly strong plant and seem rather royal, as they expect me to praise and laud them as I care for them. They love for me to smell their fabulous scent and compliment them on their delicate loveliness. "Aren't I so beautiful?," they seem to say.

Marigolds, however, are nearly the opposite – particularly strong and robust. They bowl me over with a contagious happiness. They give off such a hearty and sunshiny love that they encourage and cheer me when I come near. They give instead of take. Because of this they have always been my favorite flower. Their smell is definitely not sweet, but their temperament is. Marigolds are happy to see me when I come outdoors, like a beloved dog or cat would be. What a lift they give!

Not having taken care of pansies before, I wondered what their personality was like. For some reason, they made me think of Dad, who, for the last twelve years of his life, had been disabled by a series of strokes and heart attacks. Like the pansies, he couldn't talk, but when I visited Mom and Dad, every morning when I went downstairs I found

him sitting on the couch in the same place.

"How are you, Dad?" I would ask. And he would smile and wink at me, and with a twinkle in his eyes, wave or give a cheerful thumbs up.

A peace activist as early as his college days, he'd struggled all his life to further human dignity all around the globe. Now, he was struggling with his own human dignity in a body which no longer cooperated with him as he wished. I was amazed and pleased at his cheerfulness in those circumstances.

When I went home again after a visit to Dad that spring, I was talking to these new pansies, trying to determine their personality. I noticed a mischievous cheerfulness, quieter than marigolds, but more personal, with their sweet faces upturned to mine, seemingly grateful for the vibrancy of the life I'd given to them. Suddenly, I realized my pansies seemed much like my dear Dad to me, winking and smiling their encouragement as I watered and talked to them.

Later, after my Dad's death in July, I met with my mother Marian, brothers Larry and Allan, and sisters Wyn, Valerie and Gloria, in order to plan the memorial service to be held at our Quaker Meeting (Concord) near Philadelphia. Someone asked what our Dad's favorite flower was so we could make it part of the service. Our mother assured us that it was pansies.

Surprised, I recounted how I'd planted pansies for the first time this spring and how they'd flourished from a state of near-death. Then Wyn grinned and related how she'd planted pansies for the first time this spring as well.

With mounting excitement, sister Valerie chimed in that she, too, had planted pansies for the first time this spring. Then, all eyes turned inquiringly to our youngest sister, Gloria, who, with a rather numb expression, shook her head with disbelief, and said, "For the first time this spring, pansies!..."

God works in mysterious ways. The ways of the

Concord Quarterly Meeting

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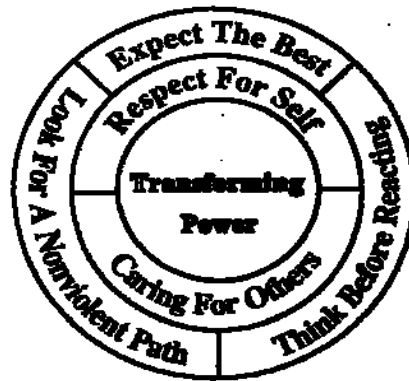
Willistown Monthly Meeting

7069 Goshen Rd, Newtown Square, PA 19073

October 25, 2009

8:00-8:15	Sign-in
8:15-9:45	Meeting for Worship for Business
10:00-11:00	Meeting for Worship with Willistown Meeting
11:00-11:15	Announcements & break
11:15-12:00	Program

AVP in South America and the United States



Presented by Jorge Arauz

The Alternatives to Violence Project is a worldwide association of volunteer groups offering experiential workshops in conflict resolution, responses to violence, and personal growth. It began in 1975 when a group of inmates at Green Haven Prison (NY) was working with youth coming into conflict with the law. They collaborated with the Quaker Project on Community Conflict to devise a prison workshop. The success of this workshop quickly generated requests for more, and AVP was born. Jorge Arauz will share his experience with the AVP in South America and at home. In so doing, he hopes to provide an opportunity for all of us to explore the question of how we open ourselves to the power of peace in our lives.

12:00-1:00 Soup, hearty bread and cheese lunch and fellowship.

Community building exercise: As we relax together over lunch, the members of the Planning Committee will conduct a facilitated discussion at each table around the query: *What is your greatest Quarterly Meeting/Quaker moment?*

Children are most welcome at Quarterly Meeting! Child care will be provided throughout the morning. Visiting children are invited to join Willistown's FDS program during MFW.

Note: Courtesy of WC Meeting, Baked Goods will be available for purchase to benefit Safe Harbor, a homeless shelter in West Chester.

CQM Calendar of Events: Pull Out and Post

October

- 2 Diversity Works Meet the Artist Reception and Ongoing Exhibit
The Hickman 6-8 p.m, Diversity in the Medium, selected works by faculty of West Chester University's art department. Wine, cheese and light refreshments. Exhibit runs through the month of October, week days 9-8, weekends 11-7.
- 9 Art of Caring
The Hickman, 6:30 p.m. Dinner and auction featuring 12 "Large Framed Mirrors" painted and interpreted by a collection of regional artists. See www.thehickman.org/artofcaring for more information.
- 25 Quarterly Meeting at Willistown
See p. 1 and flyer insert for details.

November

- 1 Planning Committee Meeting
7:30 p.m., The Hickman.
- 7 Annual Turkey Supper
Birmingham Meeting, seatings at 4:30, 5:15 and 6:00. Vegetarian entrée available. For tickets call Tod Baseden 302-475-4633 or the meetinghouse at 610.793.1734, or email info at birminghamfriends.org. \$14 in advance \$15 at the door, children under 12 \$7. All proceeds go to charity.
- 18 The Hickman Bazaar
9a.m.-3p.m. Hickman Lobby. Shop for handmade crafts, plants, baked goods, jewelry and many other treasures. Questions contact Jen Mitman 484.760.6306 or Jmitman@thehickman.org.
- 21 Fall Cleanup at The Hickman
8:00am to noon. Continental breakfast and bagged lunches provided. Join us in preparing the gardens around The Hickman for winter. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jen Mitman at 484-760-6306 or Jmitman@thehickman.org by November 13th, 2009.

December

- 4 Old Fashioned Christmas
The Hickman, 6:30-7:30.
- 20 Annual Carol Sing
Birmingham Meeting, 7 p.m., followed by cookies and punch social.
- 24 Candlelight Meeting for Worship and Carol Sing
Willistown Meeting, 5:30-6:00 p.m., then MFW with Caroling at 6:30 followed by a half hour Candlelight MFW.

January

- 24 Quarterly Meeting at Wilmington
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@swarthmore.edu.

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

**Concord Quarterly Meeting for Worship with attention to Business
Held at Westtown Monthly Meeting
July 26, 2009**

Meeting began with a period of silent worship. Clerk Ellen Simmons welcomed everyone. There were 21 Friends in attendance. All meetings were represented with the exception of Goshen Monthly Meeting. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Five Year Review and Priorities Setting Called Meeting on May 31st Report was presented by David Scott. He reported on the review of the Coordinator's position and the priorities for the future. 15 Friends were in attendance. He noted that prior to the meeting Beth prepared a detailed five-year report as well as a one-page list of events that she had been asked to plan and organize. This was sent to all Monthly Meetings, the Planning Committee, members of the Search Committee, the Oversight Committee, and to Wright Horne at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Friends concurred that Beth has ably and gracefully fulfilled all the expectations in the job description. Beth has met these expectations through the Quarter's newsletter which is read in circles wider than the Quarter. She has provided a reliable daytime staff presence. Beth has played a crucial role in planning and executing events requested by the Quarter. She has attended and reported at all Quarterly Meetings. She has supported other Quarter committees and gatherings, often acting as recording clerk or clerk. In addition to the Spiritual Nurture of the Quarter, she has also assisted the Clerk and Planning Committee with the Quarter's business and Meetings.

David reported that Friends discerned the present and future needs of the Quarter as including balancing inreach and outreach, helping the small and struggling Meetings, providing intervisitation between Monthly Meetings on a regular basis, and building the confidence of Friends in the Quarter to serve and take active roles. David reported that a request was made that Beth have conversations with each Meeting about what works and what doesn't. He also reported that some of these needs are currently being provided for in the form of the Public Meeting for Worship, and the listening workshop at Birmingham Monthly Meeting. A Friend asked for confirmation that the Coordinator position is still budgeted. Friends noted that the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting budget still does include the position. **Friends accepted the report.**

Nominating Committee Report was given by Sallie Jones. She reported on three new vacancies that have arisen during the past quarter: Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, and At-Large Member of the Planning Committee. The Friend who was to assume the position of Assistant Clerk is moving to a retirement community out of the area. Attempts to find a Friend for this position by the Nominating Committee have not been successful.

The Friend who had assumed the position of Treasurer has come to the realization that the time required to meet the responsibilities of the position is greater than the Friend can dedicate. Although attempts to find a Friend for this position have been unsuccessful, in the interim our former Treasurer, Erica Young, has graciously agreed to prepare next year's budget, and review and complete the Quarter's financial transactions for the remainder of the 2008 – 2009 fiscal year. The clerk requested Friends' approval for Erica Young to be the Treasurer for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. **Friends approved with gratitude.** The Nominating Committee will continue its search for an individual willing to serve as Treasurer for a three-year term beginning July 2010.

Sallie reported that the Friend who was previously approved to serve as At-Large Member of the Planning Committee for the coming year had a change of mind. Several Friends have been approached by the Nominating Committee, but none has agreed to serve.

Sallie reported on the Nominating Committee's frequent Spirit-led efforts in attempting to bring names forward to the Quarter who are willing and able to serve the Quarter in these capacities. Though the Nominating Committee has seen the interest and energy in attendance of Quarterly Meeting, it was noted there is great difficulty in finding Friends willing and able to serve in the leadership roles that support and maintain the organization, including the Coordinator position. The committee asked for Friends' prayerful consideration about the way forward.

Sallie concluded the report by recognizing the other members of the Nominating Committee for 2008-2009: Sallie Jones (Birmingham), David Scott (Wilmington), Deb Lyons (West Chester), Jane H. Mack (Middletown), Marian Walker (Concord), Peter Lane (Westtown), and Beth Lawn, Coordinator. **Friends accepted the report with thanks for the extraordinary work and support that the Quarter receives regularly from the Nominating Committee.**

Friends then moved into worship to discern the way forward in fulfilling the needs of the Quarter. A Friend noted that Birmingham had a process the Nominating Committee has been following. If the named Friend had concerns on taking the position, the

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conversation is not considered done yet. The committee may ask them again if their name keeps coming up in the committee. The Friend noted it is a firm but gentle approach, but that it does not appear to be working to fill these roles. The Friend suggested that we lower the scoop a little and to make a third pass. The Clerk sensed that the Spirit is present in the Quarter. The Clerk noted that the Clerk and past Clerk do not have daytime jobs. A Friend asked if there was a way to ask the Monthly Meetings in the Quarter to act as a Nominating Committee to also provide names. It was observed that this would have the added benefit of involving the Monthly Meetings in the Quarter. The Coordinator noted that one of the suggestions made at the Coordinator Review Meeting was for her to have conversations with the monthly meetings; maybe this effort could be part of those conversations, but perhaps with key members of both the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings present. The Coordinator also asked the Quarter to consider the possibility that scaling back what the Quarter does may be appropriate at this time. A Friend asked that every person in this room pray on this matter and think of a name, perhaps even someone not attending Quarterly Meeting, who may be ready to be involved in the Quarter. A Friend asked if the idea of co-Treasurer was considered. Erica noted that there are few transactions during a Quarter, but it may be helpful to engage others in the cycle of the process, the relationships with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and the Monthly Meetings, but not necessarily the transactions themselves. A Friend recommended that the Treasurer have the same structure as Clerk and Assistant Clerk do today.

Treasurer's Report was given by Erica Young. She presented the year end 2008 – 2009 fiscal year report, and expressed her gratitude for the Treasurers of the Monthly Meetings for assisting her in fulfilling both the covenant and coordinator funds. Regarding the tuition fund's recipients, she noted about 20 percent of those recipients change their decision on going to a Friends school and that sending the funds should wait until August when the students' decision is more firm. **Friends accepted the report.**

Erica presented the proposed budget for the 2009 – 2010. A Friend requested that a comparison budget of the coming fiscal year to the actual amounts from the past fiscal year be made available. Erica agreed to produce an actual vs. budgeted comparison report in the future. She noted that most expenses are balancing out year over year with the special exception of the expense of sending a representative to the Peace Gathering in the last fiscal year. **Friends approved the proposed budget.**

Erica reported the Concord Quarter program for fiscal year 2010. She noted a \$2,000 reduction in the General Fund allocation and that the salary and benefits expenses have risen. **Friends approved the proposed coordinator budget.**

Erica reported that she and Beth Lawn reviewed the Coordinator Budget and funds in detail and during this review, she spoke to Kathy Reilly and found that the Quarter will have a carry forward balance from the coordinator budget this fiscal year of approximately \$12,832 and proposes that the following be considered for approval:

First, that Concord Quarter return \$5,000 of our carry forward FY 2009-2010 Coordinator Program (425400) balance back to the PYM General Fund as a one-time adjustment in recognition of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's continued and sustaining support for the Concord Quarter Program as well as recognizing our Yearly Meeting's own fiscal challenges.

Second, that Concord Quarter use \$5000 of the 2009-2010 carry forward balance for the Concord Quarterly Program (425400) to reduce the Monthly Meeting contributions in FY 2009-2010 by their apportioned percentage contribution to the total Concord Quarter Coordinator Program commitment as a one-time adjustment.

Erica notes that this would leave the Quarter with approximately \$2,800 as a balance forward for unplanned expense items. A Friend asked if the \$5,000 was considered for the Tuition Aid Fund. Erica responded that it was considered but since the funds for each are separate, the monies moving from one fund to the other seemed to her to be inappropriate. Erica added that she spoke to the Monthly Meetings' Treasurers and felt the need was greatest there.

The Clerk sensed that Friends were not yet ready to approve use of the carry forward balance and that it be taken to the Planning Committee for further seasoning and be presented again in October. **Friends approved referring any uses of the carry forward balance to the Planning Committee for further seasoning.**

Coordinator's Report was given by Beth Lawn. She reported on her numerous activities over the past Quarter, including the Public Meeting for Worship and the Five-Year Review of the Coordinator Position and Priorities Setting which are being reported separately. She reported on her work with Greta Rech, the Western Quarter Youth Coordinator, the preparation for the annual Tubing on the Brandywine at Maryetta Clendenin's home and her preparations for a special interest group on Spirituality and Aging that she will be co-leading with George Schaefer at our Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions at DeSales University on Thursday.

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Beth reported she has assisted the Nominating Committee in finding Friends to fill positions in the Quarter.

Beth reported that over the past quarter Michael Wajda has stepped down from leading the Quarter's 5th Sunday Worship and Ministry Gathering due to work commitments. She reported that attendance has grown sparse. At the May Gathering at Willistown Monthly Meeting, it was decided to suspend these meetings and ask that Monthly Meeting Worship and Ministry Clerks and any others interested attend Quarterly Meeting in October to discuss the need for Monthly Meetings to share their ongoing efforts for enriching the spiritual lives of their Meeting communities over lunch.

Lastly, Beth encouraged Friends to speak to their planning committee representative for any ideas for present and future priorities for the Quarter or to attend themselves as all are welcome. **Friends accepted the report.**

The Hickman Annual Report was given by Jane Mack. She reported on the past year's activity and plans for the future, most especially, that funding for the planned expansion on property adjoining The Hickman was in place. The Hickman, in partnership with Pennrose Properties, was awarded monies through the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency's low income housing tax credit program to build a 60 unit apartment building for low-moderate income seniors. Jane encouraged Friends to refer potential residents for this new space to The Hickman so their names can be added to the list of interested parties. The newly constructed building will be named the Mary Taylor building in recognition of The Hickman's first resident.

Jane reported that since this part of their campus plan has moved forward sufficiently, The Hickman Board has turned its attention to developing a strategic plan which will address improvements of the existing buildings on The Hickman's campus. She related the Board's hopes to expand their services and the numbers of seniors they serve.

Jane noted that Pennsylvania is in the process of developing regulations for the term Assisted Living, which is currently a term used in marketing for years, but is not a defined and regulated level of care. If regulations are finalized in their current form, Assisted Living would be a nursing home alternative which will allow seniors to receive higher levels of care without entering a skilled nursing facility. Jane reported that although this creates new options for communities such as The Hickman to care for residents who previously had to be transferred to a skilled care facility, it will not be without significant costs to comply with regulations for physical plant and staffing. She reported that The Hickman will be challenged to determine if they can maintain affordable rates while complying with the comprehensive regulations.

Jane reported that at this time the average age of the residents at The Hickman is 86, and the average length of stay is 4.2 years. She notes that The Hickman is currently full, though numerous retirement communities are struggling through this economy to get eighty to ninety percent occupancy as numerous residents are unable to sell their homes or their investment income has dropped making The Hickman's mission to serve those who do not have the resources to access other retirement options more important now than ever before. A Friend noted that this endeavor could be considered for use of the coordinator balance forward. **Friends accepted the report.**

Public Meeting for Worship Report was given by Beth Lawn for Rich Ailes. Beth noted that very careful planning of the two public worships was carried out by herself, Rich Ailes, Paul Wishengrad, Ellen Simmons, and Marian Walker. Planning included choosing from 5 potential locations, publicity, and signage.

Beth reported that there have been two public worship experiences. The first was on June 27 and had 13 people in attendance and the second was on July 11 with 5 people in attendance. They were both held on Saturdays at 11 a.m. at Bayard Rustin park. Weather on both days was sunny and pleasant. Before both worships, fliers were prepared and a sandwich board sign next to those worshipping announced that the worship was open to anyone. Both worships were publicized in the West Chester Daily Local, in the paper's religion section. Beth noted that foot and vehicle traffic was very light on both days.

Beth announced that a third Public Meeting for Worship was scheduled for August 8 at 11 am. Beth noted, however, that the planners sensed a need for a better location where the public meeting would be more visible to passerby. Beth expressed the desire of the planners to receive further discernment from the Quarter. A Friend suggested singing. Another Friend suggested a change of venue. **Friends accepted the report. Friends agreed to request the Planning Committee consider the future of public meetings for worship.**

Meeting ended with a period of silent worship. Respectfully submitted, John Lavin, Recording Clerk

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

Clerk: Ellen Simmons
Asst. Clerk:
Recording Clerk: John Lavin
Treasurer: Erica Young
Coordinator: Beth Lawn

Address Service Requested

Concord Quarter Meetings

Birmingham
Concord
Goshen
Middletown
West Chester
Westtown
Willistown
Wilmington

Coordinator's Report

An Information Day on Issues of Aging is being planned for late February at Birmingham in response to interest in the Quarter raised up at the January Quarterly Meeting at Middletown. Deborah Cooper, Friends Counseling Service Coordinator, George Schaefer, PYM Care and Aging Coordinator, and Tricia Coscia, recently hired Aging Resource Coordinator, have enthusiastically agreed to work with me on this project.

As reported by the Nominating Committee at July QM, three leadership positions in the Quarter remain unfilled despite its faithful efforts to find suitable candidates. A joint meeting of the Planning and Nominating Committees was held to discuss the situation. We affirmed the value of our Quarterly Meeting gatherings for good programming, food, and fellowship, all of which are important to the growth of Quakers. Several among us expressed frustration at our inability to convey to others in our Meetings the excitement we feel about our Quarter gatherings. Carol and Erik Metzker joined us to lend their expertise in working with organizations. They listened keenly and then suggested ways to raise energy in the Quarter. We will begin with a lunchtime exercise at the October QM in which people will be asked to reflect on their positive experiences at Quarterly Meeting, or in a larger Quaker gathering. Please be sure to join us October 25th at Willistown for this step toward growth in vitality and energy for our beloved Quaker community. Full details of the day can be found on the flyer insert.

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