

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business
December 8, 2013

DECEMBER MINUTES

The Meeting for Worship for Business began with a period of silent worship. The Clerk read Query # 12, "Integrity and Simplicity," p. 213, Faith and Practice.

23 Friends were in attendance.

Friends approved the minutes of the October and November 2013 meetings for worship for business.

Justin Loughry presented the Annual Report of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, a copy of which is attached hereto. He discussed the Garden Project and its transition as a long-serving co-coordinator steps down. The Committee thanks Newton Meeting for its support. The Committee has become involved in the efforts to hold Walmart accountable for its workforce policies. Two years ago it sent a letter to Walmart suggesting improved employment policies. Another similar letter was sent as part of the national Black Friday Walmart efforts. The Committee has supported the Help the Afghan Children efforts to raise funds for schools for Afghan girls. Members of our Meeting attended the memorial service for the slaves and former slaved buried in the Upper Dublin graveyard. The Committee explored the question of corporate subsidies in New Jersey and arranged for Gordon MacInnes to give a presentation on the allocation of public resources in the state. Kathy Fastiggi has worked hard to coordinate review of FCNL activities. Various individuals have particular interest in geographic areas and organizations. Justin raised the following questions for Meeting consideration and discussion:

1. What issues would you like to learn about here in the Meeting?
2. What is the best way to bring information and activities to your attention?
3. What issues would you be interested in addressing along with other members of our Meeting?

The Clerk thanked the Committee for its activities and noted that it is a strong, vibrant committee contributing to the health of the Meeting as a whole. She asked for a brief consideration of the Committee's questions. Efforts to be inclusive of individuals with disabilities were discussed.

The Clerk read the Library Group's Annual Report, a copy of which is attached hereto. A Friend asked what portions of the collection are thought to be more appropriately stored elsewhere. The Meeting thanked the Group for its work.

Bob Turrin presented an update from the Property Committee. The Committee has already expended its entire maintenance budget for this year, because of some extraordinary projects. The plan is for Property Committee to participate in activities that do not require spending money. He asked for approval to borrow \$100 from the snow removal fund to fix the kitchen faucet. Some Friends expressed support for approving

the expenditure of “whatever it takes” to fix the problem. Friends approved the expenditure of the amount determined to be reasonable by Ginny Barker, who will supervise the repair. Bob mentioned that the amplifier for the Meeting’s hearing system is broken and is on the list to be repaired. The Gardening Group and Property Committee met jointly recently and discussed retaining a consultant to look at a number of land issues, such as drainage, National Historic Registry listing, etc. The expenditure of \$180 for the consultant, previously approved by the Meeting, is being deferred. If separate funds are raised for that purpose, the consultant will be retained. Judy Barnes is seeking individuals to help in that fundraising activity.

PJ Bielavitz spoke for the Child Life Committee, which is focused on assisting families in the transition from child care, meeting for worship attendance and full membership of young Friends. The Committee previously held annual retreats and considered whether the October Tri-Quarter gathering could include some time for the Committee to gather. Unfortunately attendance at that gathering is expensive. The Committee is now asking whether there is interest in the Meeting to consider this topic. Mary Noland stated that the Membership and Community Committee has considered this issue also. Maria Shivers stated that she is interesting in assisting the Child Life Committee in this effort.

The next Meeting for Worship for Business will be held on January 12, 2014.

Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business concluded with a period of worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Kane Williams, Recording Clerk.

**2012-13 Report to Meeting for Business
From the Peace and Social Concerns Committee
Of Haddonfield Monthly Meeting**

December, 2013

Membership:

During the Program Year, 2012-13, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee (P&SC) included as members: Justin Loughry, clerk, Kathy Fastiggi (FCNL liaison), Sarah Greenblatt, Linda Lotz, Donna Maccherone, and Kitty Taylor Mizuno. Kitty and Takashi are now Friends in Residence at Ben Lomond, California. In July, 2013, Carol Overtoom and Jake McGlaughlin were appointed to join the committee. As the Meeting's liaison to AFSC, KP has been invited to P&SC meetings. Last year, Lois Hinski was a frequent guest. The Committee has met regularly on the second Sunday of the month at 9 a.m. and has welcomed Friends and attenders who have visited our committee from time to time.

Program Approach:

Committee members share various interests and bring suggestions for actions to the committee and the meeting. In this way, we seek to provide information and engage members of our meeting in different ways to witness our faith.

Activities during this program year:

- **Garden Project** – This long standing project continues to provide an opportunity for women residents at Garrett House (Run by the Volunteers of America under contract with the New Jersey Department of Corrections) to take part in activities at Newton Meeting (Camden). The project builds community among Friends and supporters and women who are still in the custody of the Department of Corrections. The project provides an opportunity for the women attending the program to earn community service credits in an environment of support and caring.

Each Saturday morning, the women come to Newton Meeting to take part in gardening projects and making and enjoying lunch together. In months when it is too cold for gardening, programs are held such as crafts and practical information to help ease their transition from prison to the community. The program is led by volunteers from several meetings in Haddonfield Quarter, and formally supported by Haddonfield Meeting.

Last fall, volunteers were encouraged to bring food for the luncheon program, which set off a period of reflection. Program leaders discerned that a variable influx of persons and energies without careful planning created some tensions with the overarching focus on the Garrett House women and the need for routine in meeting state guidelines that apply to the women's time at the Project. Concerns about needing to meet state guidelines which the women must follow led to the presentation of several trainings for volunteers.

The Project is now in a period of self-evaluation as one of the longstanding co-coordinators, Ruth Darlington of Medford Meeting, is preparing to step down. Friends Transition Support Services is looking for a volunteer to replace Ruth as a co-coordinator with Priscilla Adams.

- **Walmart Workers** – On “Black Friday” a delegation of seven people delivered a letter signed by about 70 people to the Store Manager at the Cinnaminson Walmart, calling on that company to provide better wages and working conditions. This was part of a national effort by Interfaith Worker Justice (iwj.org) to support workers across the country who were engaged in a substantial campaign for better treatment by their employer. This activity helps draw our attention to the growing trend to create low-wage, part time jobs without benefits, making it difficult to support the workers and their families. (Update: Another delegation visited the Somerdale Walmart this year.)
- **Help the Afghan Children** – Help the Afghan Children (HTAC) supports schools and other services for children in Afghanistan. From late fall thru May, note cards featuring photographs of the Meeting property, prepared by Lois Hinski, her sister, and others, were sold and a special dinner was held at a nearby Afghan restaurant to raise funds for HTAC. Haddonfield Friends School also held some activities during this period, including having students prepare letters for Afghan children. In the spring, the founder, Suraya Sadeed, gave a presentation about the situation in Afghanistan and HTAC’s programs. She also described reading some of the HFS letters to students at one of the schools in Afghanistan, and preliminary plans to build deeper connections between the two schools. Following a presentation by several HFS students, a check for more than \$1,000 was presented to Suraya to support HTAC’s work. The committee is discussing a second fundraising- dinner in early 2014 to raise additional funds for HTAC.
- **Upper Dublin** – As follow-up to the P&SC’s Ad Hoc Committee on Racial Justice and Equality several years ago, including researching links between early members of our meeting and slavery, two committee members provided support to the holding of two memorial services for unnamed fugitive slaves buried in the graveyard of Upper Dublin Meeting, in Pennsylvania. Several members of our meeting also attended the memorial services. A video of the second service will be ready for distribution in early 2014. They continue to be active in an informal committee that is supporting continued activities at Upper Dublin and nearby meetings and work with the Upper Dublin School District to bring this important piece of local history into the school curriculum.
- **Camden Churches Organized for People (CCOP)** – A member of the committee is acting as a liaison with the multi-congregational group, CCOP, which is affiliated with the national PICO network. They are promoting a model to reduce violence in Camden, which has been tested in other communities nationwide. CCOP is also seeking to mobilize congregation members on other issues of mutual concern.
- **FCNL strategic plan** discussion – An Adult First Day session was devoted to answering a series of questions from Friends Committee on National Legislation. This information was compiled and forwarded to FCNL, as part of its effort to discern Friends’ priorities for the organization’s work in the next five years.

- **Corporate Subsidies** – Several committee members met several times to discuss New Jersey’s program of allocating subsidies to companies bringing new or keeping existing jobs in the state, at a time when legislation was being considered to restructure the program. Gordon MacInnes, president of New Jersey Policy Perspectives, spoke to meeting members in an evening program. In his presentation, MacInnes stressed the importance of the state’s income tax as the fairest way to provide adequate funding for public education, rather than the more regressive property tax.
- **Haddonfield Council of Churches** – Representatives of churches in Haddonfield were asked to recommend staff and members of their congregation who might be contacted regarding peace and social concerns activities. Several names were provided, but little response was received to an initial email. Additional work will be undertaken in early 2014.

Looking forward

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee will be continuing to follow these *issues* in the coming year. There are people on the committee who follow Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. People who follow current issues in Asia and other parts of the world are encouraged to contact the committee if they identify opportunities for education or activities.

Liaisons to FCNL and AFSC – Several committee members are exploring the best ways to bring information and action suggestions from Friends Committee on National Legislation and the American Friends Service Committee. KP Perkins has recently agreed to be the meeting’s liaison with the AFSC. Kathy Fastiggi continues as the FCNL liaison and we are happy to note that Connie Brookes is FCNL’s treasurer.

Networking with Haddonfield Council of Churches and other P&SC committees in Haddonfield Quarter – We hope to build links with others in the area. People with contacts at other local congregations/meetings are encouraged to speak with members of our Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Also, Pam Perry, who has worked with the Council to operate the Crop Walk, has asked for the Committee to assist in assuming responsibility for the Crop Walk or finding resources ins the Meeting to sustain the Meeting’s involvement in that yearly project.

Questions for Discussion:

4. What issues would you like to learn about here in the meeting?
5. What is the best way to bring information and activities to your attention?
6. What issues would you be interested in addressing along with other members of our Meeting?

SUMMARY- Peace and Social Concerns Contacts:

Groups/issues

AFSC – KP Perkins

CCOP – Donna Maccherone

Economic Justice and worker issues – Linda Lotz

FCNL – Kathy Fastiggi

Garden Project – Justin Loughry and Sarah Greenblatt

Country or Regional interests:

Afghanistan – Lois Hinski

Central East Africa – Jake McGlaughlin and Elsie McKay

Latin America – Justin Loughry

Middle East – Linda Lotz

Submitted December, 2013

2013 Annual Report
Library Committee
Haddonfield Monthly Meeting
December 5, 2013

The three member committee has met several times over the past year to work on the physical appearance of the library as well as the collection.

The online catalog started in 2012 has continued to grow thanks to the diligent work of Jackie Stevens, 304 books have been cataloged to date. The web address for our catalog has been posted in the library (librarything.com/catalog/haddonfieldmeeting) and will be advertised on the Meeting web site in the near future. The Book Swap/Sale has raised enough money to cover the cost of labels for the newly cataloged books. New attractive boxes were purchased for the Pendle Hill pamphlets. Property Committee generously donated the sample folding chairs from Home Depot so they can be used when groups are meeting in the library. In an effort to reduce clutter some older chairs were removed from the library. In August the school paid for the carpets to be cleaned in the library; in the future we will ask that they also have the two upholstered chairs cleaned at our expense if necessary.

The subscription to Friends Journal was renewed for one year. Books purchased this year were mainly in response to Meeting sponsored programs or recommendations by Meeting members.

Some 2013 acquisitions:

The New Jim Crow (2 additional copies purchased to support Religious Ed. programming)

Forbidden Lessons (Support Suraya Sadeed Afghan program)

Lucretia Mott's Heresy (donated by Ruth Podolin)

The Last Runaway by Tracy Chevalier

Please Thanks Wow by Anne Lamott

We received a large number of book donations and other materials from meeting members most of which are still being processed.

In April of this year while weeded the collection pulling approximately 15 we deemed to be dated, duplicates or not meeting our objectives for the library. While weeding we discovered some title that may be better suited for the Quaker Collection at Haverford College; Ruth Podolin is exploring this option. There were also a couple of children's books that may have some monetary value and we will decide if they should be sold once this is confirmed.

A piece of artwork was donated to the library by Pronica: Quakers in Solidarity with Nicaraguans when they came to do a program last spring. The art was put on display. To promote outreach the library was being left unlocked for the use of teachers and parents of Haddonfield Friends School, but this effort was short-lived because the school implemented a closed door policy for all school related building this year as a security measure.

Several more books will be purchased before the end of this month from Quaker Books; all recent purchases will be advertised on the web site in early January.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Salaam, Library Committee Clerk