

Haddonfield Quarter

Stewardship

February 2013

In this newsletter

- 1 From the Clerk
- 1 Newsletter News
- 2 Friends: Quaker and Muslim
- 3 Background on Climate Change
- 4 Action on Climate Change
- 4 Centering
- 5 Used Stamps Make a Difference
- 5 Spiritual Formation
- 5 Future of Haddonfield Quarter Projects
- 6 Upcoming Events

Newsletter News

Upcoming newsletter themes are:

Mar.- outreach

Apr.- worship & ministry

May- following our leadings

Jun.- nuts & bolts of a meeting (clerking, recording, etc.)

You are invited to write on the month's theme or on other topics. Karen Nulton will assist anyone who feels uneasy writing and wants help. (ksnhome@aol.com)

You can also encourage other Friends to write articles.

Please send all information and articles for the newsletter to peacepc@aol.com by the 15th of the preceding month.

SEE INSIDE: Quarterly Meeting is 2/24 & Spiritual Formation starts 2/15

From the Clerk – FCNL's Stewardship: A Reason for Hope

After watching Gasland, I couldn't sleep. The film documents the present and potential horrors of extensive hydraulic fracturing. The prospect of contaminating the entire water supply for the multi-state Delaware Valley kept me miserably distressed. What could I do to stop this environmental disaster? Where was the stewardship needed for the planet?

Knowing there must be Friends who have knowledge and good ideas about how to respond to the threat of fracking, I first thought of our own Haddonfield Quarter Peace and Social Concerns committees. I look forward to hearing whether they have begun planning how to share information and keep us updated on their concerns and activities. But I needed help right away, advice about how to stop the despoiling of the water table. Then I remembered FCNL.

In a world of threats and dangers, we are not alone. The

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is our Quaker lobbying organization.. Lobbying is not carried out only by lavishly funded proponents of energy companies and other environmentally damaging and bellicose organizations. Communicating concerns to legislators is one of the noble prerogatives of citizens of a democracy. FCNL was founded in 1943 to advocate for legislation related to historic Quaker testimonies on peace, equality, integrity and social justice. Thousands of people share our values, and together we have a powerful voice. The FCNL website (<http://fcnl.org/splash/s1/c2/p1/>) states that "Patient, persistent, nonpartisan lobbying gets results." Their policy statement gives me heart:

**FCNL POLICY STATEMENT
(Approved 11/03)**

We seek a world free of war and the threat of war.

We seek a society with equity and justice for all.

We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled.

We seek an earth restored.

I knew these Friends could help. Sure enough, the website features information and advice from Quaker

Earthcare Witness on how to reach out to legislators on hydraulic fracking and the infamous Keystone XL Pipeline. A list of recent FCNL successes includes details on the following achievements:

- Ending the War in Afghanistan
- New Nuclear Bomb Plant Defeated
- Creating Space for Diplomacy with Iran
- Preserving U.S. Investments in War Prevention
- Rekindling Action on Climate Change
- Preventing Atrocities and Genocide
- Native American Advocacy: Protecting Women from Violence
- Building the Movement to Reduce Military Spending
- Immigration: Steps Toward Reform

Once, I heard Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai speak. She said that people who felt helpless in the face of disasters often asked her “What can we do?” Her advice was simple. “Do something. Anyone” she said “can plant a tree.” Of course, the Green Belt Movement she founded has planted millions of trees, but the principle remains: We can do something. Exploring FCNL could be a good start.

In Friendship,

Rose Ketterer, Newton Meeting

Friends: Quaker and Muslim

Becca and Laila are two 6th graders at Haddonfield Friends School who have been good friends for 8 years. Becca is a Quaker and a member of Haddonfield Monthly Meeting and Laila is a Muslim and a member of the Masjid Freehaven in Lawnside; Laila also occasionally visits Haddonfield Meeting. This is a discussion between these two friends about their faith.

We were asked to interview each other about our religions, and whether our religious differences get in the way of our friendship. We both liked talking about these parts of ourselves, but we don't feel these differences change anything.

How do you practice your religion?

Laila: I practice my faith by praying with my father on some mornings doing a prayer called Fajr (the morning prayer). I also go to Sunday School where we learn the history of our religion, how to speak Arabic, and how to recite the Holy Qur'an.

Becca: Every Sunday we go to Meeting for Worship. We sit for an hour and come to peace with God. It's a little too long for me, but it's really nice when you finally have some quiet time to yourself to think.

What role does your family play in your faith?

Laila: My family plays a very large part in my religion. Our holy book, the Qur'an, talks about having respect for your family and to always love your family no matter what. Everyday I try to put my family first but that is not always easy when you have a little brother. Also my family is very important because they are the people that keep me going.

Why are you proud to call yourself a Quaker?

Becca: I'm proud to call myself a Quaker because our community is so tight, we all know each other so well. The people who attend Quaker Meeting and who go to my Quaker school are so kind and amazing. I guess I like being part of these communities.

What is beautiful about your religion?

Laila: I find lots of things amazing about my religion but there is one thing I find particularly beautiful: I love that I get to learn a new language. It is so beautiful and also very complicated but I guess I like the challenge that it gives me.

If someone asked you what it is like being a Quaker what would you tell them?

Becca: I would tell them that it's unlike a lot of other religions I have seen. We don't go to church, dress fancy on Sundays, or have anyone guide us through our religion like a priest or minister. Quakerism is much simpler but at the same time it can be much harder. We sit in Meeting and guide ourselves.

How do you pray?

Laila: I pray by making Salat everyday. There are five prayers everyday and each of them is made at

a different time of day. Praying is a great way to clear your mind and for Muslims it is a way to speak to Allah or God. Especially when you have a problem or when you need guidance.

What are some things that you have learned from being Quaker?

Becca: I've learned that doing the right thing isn't always easy. But when you do the right thing you can really help other people. When I go on Quaker retreats, I meet other Quakers who are trying to do the right thing.

Do you wear special garments? Or have dietary restrictions?

Laila: I do wear special garments. I wear a hijab while I pray. The only things that we can't eat are pork or pork products. And we eat Halal, or Kosher marshmallows.

How do others respond (what do they ask) when they find out you are Quaker/ Muslim?

Becca: My town friends usually say they don't know what that is, but when I explain it to them, they say, "Oh yeah, I know what that is!" I'm one of the few Quakers that go to my school (even though it's a Quaker school) but because everyone goes to Meeting for Worship on Wednesdays and we all follow the Quaker SPICES (simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, stewardship) at our school, my school friends kinda know what it means.

Laila: When people find out that I am a Muslim I guess I get some mixed reactions. Sometimes people ask what it is like but sometimes people ask if I can speak Arabic fluently which I can not. Also I get the occasional "Wow I have never met anyone who is Muslim." I also love answering the questions people have about the religion. It's very fun being a bit different from everyone else.

Becca Whiting, Haddonfield Meeting & Laila Salaam, Masjid Freehaven

Background on Friends and Climate Change

In 2005 at a Called Session on Climate Change, our Yearly Meeting vowed "...to hold ourselves lovingly accountable to live in God's world in a more environmentally sustainable fashion and to join other like-minded groups and organizations in supporting this concern."

Now is the time for Friends to join Friends Committee on National Legislation, other faith-based and social justice groups, 350.org and other environmental organizations, to say "NO" to building a transnational tar sands pipeline, and to demand regulations, laws, and negotiations that will begin to dramatically curtail the emission of greenhouse gases.

Why now?

Also in 2005, the international community, led by the European Union, settled on 450 parts per million (ppm) as the greenhouse gas concentration beyond which civilization would be imperiled. The current concentration is more than 390 ppm. Recent paleoclimate research suggests that the more scientifically realistic goal would be to lower concentrations to no more than 350 ppm. In 2008, an industry proposal emerged that has not yet been approved for a pipeline from Canada to Texas to carry oil extracted from Alberta tar sands to refineries on the Gulf of Mexico. Last year, US climate scientist James Hanson, director of NASA's Goddard Institute, responded in a New York Times article, "Game Over for the Climate," by writing:

The tar sands contain enough carbon . . . to add 120 ppm. Tar shale. . . contains at least an additional 300 gigatons of carbon. If we turn to these dirtiest of fuels . . . there is no hope of keeping carbon concentrations below 500 p.p.m. - a level that would, as earth's history shows, leave our children a climate system that is out of their control."

Science journalist turned climate activist

Bill McKibben highlights the intention of the fossil fuel industry to extract more than 10 times as much carbon-based fuel as the most optimistic forecasts say can be burned before the disruption of Earth's climate systems become totally unmanageable. If we would prevent the climate disruption we already experience from becoming a total climate catastrophe, the fossil fuel industries must be made now to begin reducing rather than continuing to increase their production, and we all must dramatically reduce the amount of fuel we burn.

Friends Committee on National Legislation currently:

- helps lead a "Climate Summit Coalition" asking for a presidential climate initiative;
- participates in a Keystone XL Pipeline coalition to permanently block its construction;
- is sponsoring a series of climate briefings for members of Congress and their staff;
- is seeking bi-partisan support for a House Resolution that climate change is a reality;
- plans that this year's spring lobby weekend will focus on "Climate and Conflict."

FCNL will ask Friends to actively support all these efforts in the coming months.

We ask monthly meetings to plan now for supporting FCNL' efforts by informing everyone in the Meeting that this is the time for action to prevent a future climate catastrophe.

For our nation ". . . comes the moment to decide." Let's do our best to do our part.

Ed Dreby, Mt. Holly Meeting

Take Action on Climate Change

Now is the time for Friends to take action on climate change.

A decision to allow the Keystone XL Pipeline to carry tar sands oil from Alberta to Texas would virtually guarantee that atmosphere GHG concentrations will greatly

exceed the level of 450 parts per million. This highly optimistic target, set in 2005 by the community of nations, is the level beyond which unmanageable climate disruption will become inevitable before the end of this century.

On Sunday, February 17 there will be a major event in DC to ask the President that the Keystone XL Pipeline be rejected for this reason. Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) has joined a coalition led by 350.org that is organizing this event. Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is a political ally of this coalition. Buses will leave from Center City Philadelphia (and other locations) at 8 AM and returning at 6 PM. Reservations can be made at www.equat.org. Friends with questions can contact Carolyn McCoy at carolyn.mccoy@verizon.net or 215/724-7376.

FCNL is helping to lead a Climate Summit Coalition that is asking the President for a major educational initiative about climate change. An important consideration is providing bi-partisan support for such an effort. Toward this end Governor Christie could be a key figure. Our YM's FCNL Network urges Friends in NJ to write Governor Christie to ask in a general way that he lend his support to convincing members of Congress that climate change is real and climate disruption will overwhelm civilization by the end of the century unless greenhouse gas emissions are curtailed. On internet go to <http://nj.gov/governor/contact/> or send a letter or post card to Office of the Governor, PO Box 001, Trenton, NJ 08625, 609-292-6000.

Ed Dreby & Margaret Mansfield, Mt. Holly Meeting

Centering

Friends, the center you choose for your life will shape you — choose carefully.

if you center on hate
you will become hateful,
if you center on loss
you will be forever empty,
if you center on fear

you will find reason to fear everything---
 choose carefully.
 friends, choose a center with life in it, with birth in
 it.
 center on beauty
 and you will discover beauty in all things,
 center on faith
 and you will trust its healing power
 even in a sea of lies,
 center on gratitude
 and you will receive each morning,
 each breath, each being as a gift from the universe.
 friends, choose a center, choose carefully.
*Written by Ken Jacobsen & sent in by Mary Noland,
 Haddonfield Meeting*

Used Stamps Create Changes

Over 15 years ago, Quakers in Mattapoisett Meeting in Massachusetts organized a used stamp project. It is so easy for us to help them make the world a better place – you raise money for Quaker projects by simply collecting used postage stamps. You can do this on your own, or collect stamps from your Meeting, workplace, community group, or local businesses.

The used stamp project solicits donations of used postage stamps, prepares them for sale, and donates all the proceeds to Quaker projects. Brad Hathaway from Mattapoisett Meeting coordinated this for many years and Earl Walker from Claremont Meeting in California does it. In the first 13 years, they raised over \$71,000 for Quaker projects and the total has risen since then.

They need all US commemorative stamps (not flag or liberty bell stamps) and any foreign stamps. The stamps can be recent or old and any postage amount. All you have to do is tear the stamps off the envelopes, leaving at least 1/4 inch of the envelope all around the stamps, and send them to Earl Walker, Claremont Friends Meeting, 449 Alamosa Drive, Claremont, CA 91711.
Priscilla Adams, Haddonfield Meeting

Spiritual Formation

Last chance to sign up for Haddonfield Quarter's Spiritual Formation Program. More than twelve members of Haddonfield Quarter have signed up to join the local Spiritual Formation Program which begins the weekend of February 15 at Westfield Meeting. We'd love to have you join us too. During the nine-month process we will support each other on our spiritual journeys, work on discernment of God's leadings and recognize and support the practice of spiritual disciplines. We hope to create a close relationship with one another and strengthen bonds between meetings in the Quarter. The program involves monthly small group meetings, a couple of weekend retreats, readings, and commitment to a regular personal spiritual practice such as meditation, journaling, chanting or whatever an individual chooses.

Cost is \$50 per person. Reading materials will be purchased or borrowed. The Quarter has agreed to pay the cost of food and childcare at the retreats. Parents of young children are encouraged to participate. The retreats do not involve overnight stays.

For more information or to register please contact one of the following people in your meeting: Lee Parry (Westfield), Inspira Williams (Haddonfield), Meryl Klieger (Medford), Vickie Robertson (Moorestown) or call Alice Andrews at 215-990-2646.

Deadline for registration is February 2.
Alice Andrews, Medford Meeting

Future of Haddonfield Quarter Projects

In December, Personnel committee sent a letter to all clerks of Haddonfield Quarter. In it, we asked clerks to bring a query to January business meeting to discern responses to the following question: What projects, programs,

events, and/or services do Friends in your Monthly Meeting visualize as desirable and worth supporting within Haddonfield Quarter in the coming year(s) July 2013 - June 2014?

As background to this query, we remember that Haddonfield Quarter agreed to fund a one-year part-time Quarterly position for an independent contractor (Priscilla Adams) and appointed a personnel committee to oversee this work. This position was a transition from the full-time position the Quarter and PYM had for many decades; the work of this year has been to facilitate volunteer opportunities in the Quarter's existing projects. The projects with paid staff support this year are The Garden Project (held at Newton Meeting but under the umbrella of Friends Transition Support Services, a project of Haddonfield Meeting), Friends Prisoner Support Fund (under the care of Westfield Meeting), and the HQM Newsletter (overseen by the Quarter's Personnel committee).

We are half way through this transition year, and the Quarter's future use of paid services needs to be discerned in the coming months. For this reason, we asked clerks to bring the Query to business meetings and to send responses to Haddonfield Quarter clerk Rose Ketterer at roseket@aol.com. We invite any meetings or individuals within meetings who have not yet responded to do so in the coming week.

Our hope is to have Personnel Committee meet to review recommendations and reply to each meeting prior to the February session of Quarterly Meeting (to be held at Moorestown 2-24-13).

We appreciate your support as we attempt to help the Quarter discern spiritual and financial directions for the coming year as they relate to the question of contracting services.

*With thanks, Haddonfield Quarter Personnel Committee
Karen Nulton (WE) clerk, George Rubin (ME), Linda Lotz (HA), Les Hopton (MO), Deborah Saunders (CR) Kathy Reilly (ME), Rose Ketterer (NE), Suzanne Day (WE)*

Sacred Heart Gathering for Peace and Justice

Sacred Heart Church has been organizing an annual peace and justice gathering for years. This year it is February 9th from 8:30 - 3:15 at Sacred Heart Church, 1739 Ferry Avenue, Camden. The day includes a keynote speaker, workshops and lunch is provided. To register or get details, contact Steve McGeady, sjm158@comcast.net 856-234-2055
Sacred Heart Church

Upper Dublin Memorial Service

The Upper Dublin Meeting (PA) memorial service for fugitive slaves buried in its graveyard will be held Saturday, February 9 from 2-4 PM. Call for info or to carpool from Haddonfield Meeting: (856)-979-4560.

Linda Lotz, Haddonfield Meeting

Upcoming Events

2/2 - Spiritual Formation Program registration deadline, Alice Andrews, 215-990-2646

2/9 - Memorial service for slaves buried at Upper Dublin Meeting, 2-4, (856)-979-4560

2/9 - Sacred Heart Peace Gathering, Camden, 8:30-3:15, Steve McGeady, 856-234-2055

2/16 - PYM Communications Thread gathering, London Grove Mtg., Christie Duncan Tessmer, 215-241-7008

2/17 - Keystone Pipeline Action, Wash. DC, Carolyn 215/724-7376

2/23 - PYM Pastoral Care Thread gathering, Gwynedd Mtg., Christie Duncan Tessmer, 215-241-7008

2/24 - Haddonfield Quarterly Meeting, Moorestown Mtg, 10 am worship followed by business meeting, Rose Ketterer 856-428-0402.