



*Salem Quarter News*  
*Fall 2012*

*Let heaven and earth  
praise him,  
the seas and everything that  
moves in them.*

## Mind the Heavenly Treasure

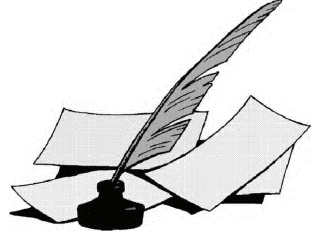
As I lived under the cross, and simply followed the opening of truth, my mind, from day to day, was more enlightened, my former acquaintance were left to judge of me as they would, for I found it safest for me to live in private, and keep these things sealed up in my own breast. While I silently ponder on that change wrought in me, I find no language equal to convey to another a clear idea of it. I looked upon the works of God in this visible creation, and an awfulness covered me. My heart was tender and often contrite, and universal love to my fellow-creatures increased in me. This will be understood by such as have trodden in the same path. Some glances of real beauty may be seen in their faces who dwell in true meekness. There is a harmony in the sound of that voice to which divine love gives utterance, and some appearance of right order in their temper and conduct whose passions are regulated; yet these do not fully show forth that inward life to those who have not felt it; this white stone and new name is only known rightly by such as receive it. — John Woolman, *Journal*

**October Beach**, A Skimmers fly-by at Cape May, Tom Etherington

Quote Psalm 69:34, English Standard Version

# *Welcome to 'Silly Season'*

*by Barry Sloane, SQM Clerk*



This is the beginning of 'Silly Season'; the time when we hold elections. It's a time that is of particular interest to me since I have long been involved in politics on one level or another and have held elected office for two decades.

As a Quaker, I have often wondered about our political process and how our faith meshes with it. I have mostly been comfortable participating in a system that often seems at odds with my Faith, but occasionally had to struggle with some of the decisions I have made. So during this season, I thought I would consider this paradox. I ran across an outstanding lecture on this subject by Fredrick B. Tolles and have used a number of his thoughts here. You may want to read the whole lecture at <http://www.quaker.org/pamphlets/ward1956.pdf>

In America, Quakers were very political In Rhode Island, North Carolina and especially in West Jersey and Pennsylvania, the seat of William Penn's "Holy Experiment." Quakers ran the courts occasionally passing death sentences, raised militias or paid the Crown money and/or goods to run armies and killed a few Indians along the way, not exactly how George Fox envisioned things. It was done, because Penn and others believed that to get to Utopia and to turn swords into plowshares, it is necessary to make occasional compromises as we evolve toward that goal. Tolles called this attitude 'relativism'.

In 1756 Quakers gave up on the 'Holy Experiment'. The attitude shifted toward what Tolles called 'Absolutism'. American Quakers withdrew from politics and took a position similar to the Mennonites. The Mennonites have successfully and consistently withdrawn from politics citing among other things, the compromises one must make, being allied to a political party and using methods that may be highly distasteful to one's ideals. This approach reminds me of the monastic orders that act through prayer and meditation rather than direct material interaction with the world at large.

There is no one Quaker attitude towards politics and never has been. Historically, Quakers can be found practicing and preaching almost every possible position from full participation to complete withdrawal and abstention. Rufus Jones observed this in the passage below:

“There has always been in the Society of Friends a group of persons pledged unswervingly to the ideal. To those who form this inner group compromise is under no circumstance allowable. If there comes a collision between allegiance to the ideal and the holding of public office, then the office must be deserted. If obedience to the soul’s vision involves eye or hand, houses or lands or life, they must be immediately surrendered. But there has always been as well another group who have held it to be equally imperative to work out their principles of life in the complex affairs of the community and the state, where to gain an end one must yield something; where to get on one must submit to existing conditions; and where to achieve ultimate triumph one must risk his ideals to the tender mercies of a world not yet ripe for them.”

The relativist needs the absolutist to keep alive and clear the vision of the Holy Spirit while he struggles to make the vision happen in the material world. Conversely the absolutist needs the relativist, lest the vision remain the possession of a few only, and not translated into any degree of reality for the world as a whole. Which school of thought you abide with depends on your temperament or leadings at the time.

There is a third way to approach politics that seems more acceptable to a larger group of Quakers or at least has been more consistently applied in our history. This is the use of divinely driven or inspired advocacy or testimony of Quakers to individuals or groups in power along the tradition of Friends Council on National Legislation (FCNL). Lobbying is one form of this, but not the only one.

As disparate as these points of view appear, there is one common thread in Quakerism. Margret Mead may not have been talking about Quakers when she said this but her words express the thread we share: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has”.

Just for fun, here is a partial list of famous Quaker politicians

- **William Penn** - founder of Pennsylvania
- **Herbert Hoover** - 31st president of the United States
- **Richard Nixon** - 37th president of the United States
- **Daniel Boone** - frontiersman and early organizer of Kentucky
- **Joseph Pease** - In 1832 he became the first Quaker member of British Parliament
- **John Bright** (1811-1889) - British politician and orator; founder of the Anti-Corn Law League (1839)
- **Philip Noel-Baker** - British politician; helped create League of Nations and United Nations; received Nobel Peace Prize in 1959
- **Rush Holt** - New Jersey Member of Congress
- **Diane Allen** - New Jersey Member of Congress
- **Paul H. Douglas** - U.S. Senator from Illinois, 1949-67
- **William H. "Bud" Walker** - apple farmer; ran for U.S. House of Representatives from New York
- **Kenneth T. Bosley** - farmer, rocket engineer; ran for U.S. House of Representatives from Maryland
- **Jean Parvin Bordewich** - technical writer; ran for U.S. House of Representatives from New York
- **David Levering** - professor; Democratic candidate for U.S. House from California's 28th District in 1996

## Salem Quarter Prayer Group

2 to 4 PM Every 5th First Day - 9/30 12/30

We begin in worship by praying for those present; then for each of the monthly meetings, lifting up joys, sorrows, and difficulties that we know about at each one; then for Salem Quarter; and for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Finally, if there's time, we ask for prayer for the world, perhaps mentioning specific troubles that concern the people present.

**ALL ARE WELCOME, ANYTIME.**

George P. Luciano Family Center

Cumberland County College

Complete directions and map will be found at <<http://www.cccnj.edu/CEC/mapsDirections.aspx>>.

Mullica Hill and Mickleton Monthly Meeting are happy to announce the Fifth winner of the John and Helen Glass Peace Essay Contest, Elly Thomas, Eighth Grader from Friends School Mullica Hill.

This year the students were given a quote by Rufus Jones: **Anyone who intending to claim his own right to walk the path of peace must take also his share of the heavy burden of trying to build a world in which the gentler forces of kindness, love, sympathy, and cooperation are put into function.** The committee asked the students to respond to the question: **How do you propose that people take their share of the heavy burden on the path to peace? The essay might propose an individual, a policy or an organization that puts kindness, love, sympathy and cooperation into function.**

**Here is her essay:**

I propose that people should start being peaceful by giving or volunteering at organizations such as Heifer International. Heifer International is an organization that gives animals, seeds and other things to families who need them most. Heifer is a peace through giving organization that does amazing things for families in need all over the world.

I first got truly involved with Heifer when I was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. My teacher, T.

Peter, had us try to read as many books as we could before the end of the school year. When the school year was done we were supposed to try to get family and friends to sponsor us for a certain amount per book. I raised about \$130 and felt really proud of my effort. Together as a class we raised enough to buy a Heifer, a dairy cow, which was given to some family in need.

The next year, in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, as an end of the school year gift, my family and I decided to donate animals from Heifer. We got each teacher



a hive of bees. We decided on bees because, recently, my dad and I had started to raise bees. I thought it was a very cool gift to receive and that it was very meaningful as well.

Before Heifer goes to a town with the animals for the families, they train families on the correct way to feed and take care of the animals or how to properly take care and grow seeds so that their family can have proper nourishment. When the animals have had babies or when the crops are harvested and give their seeds, Heifer requires that the families do something called "Pass on the gift," where that family gives some of their seeds or one of their baby animals to another family in need.

"Pass on the gift" is another great example of the way Heifer is an example of peace because it teaches the families to give back to the community. "Pass on the gift" is Heifer strategy. According to Heifers website "Pass on the gift" is, "As people share their animals' offspring with others - along with their knowledge, resources, and skills - an expanding network of hope, dignity, and self-reliance is created that reaches around the globe."

***"As people share their animals' offspring with others an expanding network of hope, dignity, and self-reliance is created that reaches around the globe."***

The way Heifer helps communities is amazing. Most of the time the families who receive the animals are families who are very malnourished and poor. When they get their animal they are so happy. As the animal grows and feeds them, the people become more and more nourished, happy, peaceful as well as giving the family more money so that they can send their child to school. The Heifer project not only helps the families that receive the animal first, it also helps the community. As the animals have babies, the original family is required to give back to community. This helps the community to grow and to learn and to become more peaceful.

Heifer has changed the way that I view peace because of their peaceful ways and their peaceful objective. I believe that Heifer is a great peaceful organization that people should try to learn more about and potentially support.

# Tending Our Sacred Gardens

## Tri-Quarter Gathering of Friends

October 5, 6, 7

Camp Uekanickon,  
Medford, NJ



**There are many gardens** that we keep within a lifetime: the gardens of our families and of our communities, the gardens of our livelihood and of our ministries, the gardens of our planet and of our spiritual journey, the gardens of our health and of our peace of mind. What nourishment do we give our gardens by way of thought, effort and time? Do we weed out what is not fruitful and harvest what is good? Do we find purpose in the work each garden requires? And do we share the fruits of our labors by word and deed?

**Let us walk in reverent mindfulness** through the gardens of our lives, savoring all with which we have been so generously entrusted. Let us explore during this Gathering what we can do to honor what we have been given, to tend our gardens and uphold their sacred entrustment. Let us reawaken to the love we feel for this planet and its inhabitants, and for The One Who Provides such sustenance and beauty.

Information is available at your meeting or contact Marsha Gaspar at [mstar8000@yahoo.com](mailto:mstar8000@yahoo.com) .



# *Salem Quarterly Meeting Minutes*

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6/10/2012

Salem Quarterly Meeting met 6/10/2012 at Mickleton Monthly Meeting. Out of worship, clerk Barry Sloane (Mickleton) convened the meeting, welcomed Friends and thanked Mickleton for their hospitality and Mullica Hill for their desserts. There was a Friendly presence for business of twenty-four representing five of the seven Monthly Meetings in the quarter. There were three guests from outside the quarter. Announcements were made and guests introduced.

Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting on 3/11/2012 were approved as they appeared in the Salem Quarter News.

A letter was presented from George Crispin, clerk of Woodbury Monthly Meeting, confirming receipt of the acknowledgement of the change in the status regarding the recognition of Woodbury decisions. They also anticipate initiating a spirit led discussion at their seventh month business meeting.

Marsha Gaspar (Woodbury) offered a report on the 2012 Tri-Quarter Gathering on 10/5-7/2012. This year's theme is "Tending Our Sainly Gardens." A variety of workshops are being developed around this theme.

The finance committee report was presented by Michael Shapiro (Salem). Adjusted covenant figures for 2012-2013 have been received from all the meetings and are reflected in the streamlined budget without coordinator costs. Presuming that all adjusted pledges are made, the budget is balanced. Meetings are asked to have 2013-2014 covenant figures by 10/31 so that the finance committee can prepare a quarter budget for that year that is driven by available funds. The finance committee is expected to meet in early November so that a proposed budget will be available at the December Quarterly Meeting.

Mike Ayars (Woodstown) reported from Steering Committee as its clerk. (*See report p. 12*)

A report was presented by Sandra Boone Murphy (Mickleton), clerk of the Indian Affairs committee. The committee has been meeting regularly and has also met with the PYM Indian committee. They are still working for Federal and state recognition for the tribe and are currently focused on reeducating the community about the Nanticoke Leni-Lenape. They have some "Honor the Promises" publicity information available. Friends in Salem Quarter were extended an invitation to attend the tribal gathering. The committee needs information on the tribe that may be found in our own historical documentation. They will need a more general minute, similar to the one that we endorsed for the Senate bill.

Phil Anthony, coordinator, reported from the Worship & Ministry

committee. The committee met at the home of Peggy Warner (Mullica Hill) on Friday evening, heard reports on the Gifts Working group, the prayer group, and a follow-up report on the Retreat for Healing. Plans for a daylong workshop this fall with Viv Hawkins on Spiritual Accountability were discussed. The semi-annual gathering of PYM Worship & Ministry for extended worship brought forward thoughts on the status of worship versus structure as the root of our existence. A deep discussion on prayer developed. (*See report p. 14*)

The Quarter Trustees report noted that the Port Elizabeth cemetery wall has been damaged in an automobile accident and repaired once again. The LAC meetinghouse was open for the Salem County Historical Society Open House Tour and received forty visitors.

Bill Carrigan (Mickleton) presented information from Friends School at Mullica Hill. He announced some upcoming graduation related events. Work on the Heritage Trail is progressing and a Ropes Course will be added to the property as a result of a Friends School Auction donation. The Annual Fund for this year is closing soon; they are looking for additional contributions. Bill noted several reasons why the Annual Fund and the school are important. He asked the Quarter to consider a contribution again this year.

The Finance committee was asked to check into the availability of funds and report to the Steering Committee later this month for a decision.

*Friends approved giving authority to the Steering committee to set an amount within our budget and make a contribution to Friends School Annual Fund by the 31seventh month 2012 deadline.*

Phil Anthony, coordinator, took the opportunity to offer a few words on his experiences, rewards, and sacrifices as coordinator for the last fifteen years. A minute of appreciation as approved at the called meeting 21 first month 2012 was presented to Phil earlier in the day at the rise of worship. The coordinator's position has been laid down effective 30 sixth month 2012.

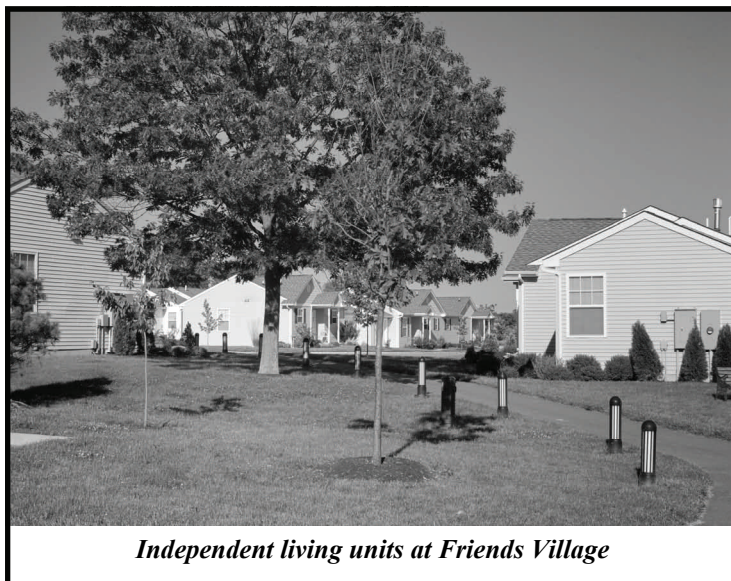
Additional announcements were made and the meeting was closed in worship.

*Rebecca Shapiro*, recording clerk

## *Coming to a Meetinghouse Near You!*

*Daphne Peaslee*

You may remember we invited ourselves over to your place. Friends Village at Woodstown has comprehensive housing options to fit many needs including independent living, assisted living, and healthcare. No longer the nursing home you may remember from decades ago, Friends Village at Woodstown is the only continuing care retirement community in South Jersey. Do we have what you need for housing and healthcare? Our presentation, “Not Your Grandmother’s Nursing Home” will provide details on living options, campus life, rehabilitation, and payment options. Monthly Meeting clerks will establish a time convenient for your Meeting to hear our 20 minute overview. Bring your questions, your children, and your parents! We look forward to demystifying life at Friends Village.



*Salem Quarter Steering Committee  
Report to Salem Quarterly Meeting  
June 10, 2012*

August Steering Committee meeting. The August Steering Committee meeting will be at Friends Village as usual. Michael Hainesworth will check with Seaville Meeting about their willingness to host a covered-dish supper for the steering committee meeting in October on the regularly scheduled meeting date.

Annual Quarter Picnic. The annual quarter picnic was suggested to be held at Seaville Meeting in August. Michael Hainesworth will check with Seaville for willingness to host this event and for date availability.

September 2012 quarterly meeting. Decisions were made about who will coordinate publicity, child care, making copies of reports, provision of beverages (Greenwich) and desserts (Mullica Hill), bringing anything needed for the program (computer, projector, screen, easel), and name tags. Linda Jeffrey will call Grace Thompson regarding beverages from Greenwich. Tom Etherington, as the newsletter editor, will coordinate publicity for quarterly meetings with PYM. Telephone numbers for child-care providers, David Testa and Fran Petit, were provided to all steering committee members. Steering committee clerk, Mike Ayars, will have the key to the office for access to the name-tags and other needed equipment. The clerk and/or recording clerk will provide copies of reports.

Beth Reaves, Interim Head of School at Mullica Hill had been suggested as a presenter at September Quarterly Meeting. Barry Sloane was to check with her.

June 2013 Quarterly Meeting. Diane Metz reported that Seaville MM agreed to host the June 2013 Quarterly Meeting. For future program consideration, she further stated that the Wetlands Institute has a new director and is moving the program in new directions to include more research.

She also noted that they are installing an outside shower and may be hosting camp outs and programs with a focus on young people.

PYM publicity for quarterly meeting events. Phil has noted that PYM information needs to be forwarded to the monthly meetings, especially those that have no newsletter contact on file at PYM. The Steering Committee clerk will forward appropriate communications from PYM to the clerks of each Monthly Meeting.

Monthly Meeting Mailing Lists. Monthly Meetings need to forward mailing list updates. Mike Ayars and Tom Etherington will coordinate the effort. Send them to Tom. We only use them for mailing Salem Quarter News and we do not share this list with anyone.

Child Care Safety Policy. Before September, the Steering Committee will review the Quarter's childcare policy. It is our expectation that the host Monthly Meeting will make arrangements for child care, and advise their steer-

ing committee rep if they need resources for other monthly meetings. 13

Greenwich Monthly Meeting SC representation. With the exception of Greenwich, all monthly meetings have an active representative to the Salem Quarter Steering Committee.

FCNL all day workshop? Friends agreed that the identification of what goals are we trying to achieve and using lobbying as a tool would be an interest as a workshop topic. "What are our priorities and how do we effect change? What can we do to help you (FCNL)?" FCNL is currently looking to meetings to identify priorities. The FCNL Annual meeting in Washington, DC is in November. Friends felt that October would be an optimal month. A small group will be formed to look into this workshop. Volunteers included Linda Jeffery, Michael Hainesworth and Mike Ayars.

#### Minute of Appreciation for Phil Anthony

Salem Quarter finds itself enriched by the fifteen years Phil Anthony has served as Salem Quarter coordinator. While this has been a position for which he has collected a salary, Phil's dedication and efforts have known no compensatory bounds. Each Friend that has served the Quarter as coordinator brought their own unique set of skills and talents. Communication in its many forms has been one of Phil's greatest gifts.

The personal bonds that Phil has developed with individuals and groups both personally and on behalf of the Quarter are indicative of his special gifts. His ability to share his genuine warmth and respect has made him excel in the area of pastoral care. Phil's supportive attitude and knowledgeable connections have been a valuable resource.

One of Phil's priorities has been inter-visitation, maintaining and reinforcing that invisible thread that binds the individual meetings of the Quarter into one body. Phil has a talent for observing and identifying the gifts and strengths of others. The use of this talent helped us grow as individual Friends and made our monthly meetings and our Quarter stronger and more productive.

We have found Phil to have a deeply spiritual nature. His gift of articulation, both verbal and written, has allowed us to share in experiences giving us each a new perspective to consider. Thus, we had the opportunity to deepen our own spirituality.

The lessons we have learned from Phil will inspire us to be nurturing, supportive, and united in love and peace for years to follow. Out of love and gratitude, we offer this minute of appreciation.

## **Salem Quarter Worship & Ministry** **6/8/2012**

The Worship & Ministry Committee of Salem Quarterly Meeting gathered at the home of Peggy Warner on 6/8/2012. In attendance were members of Salem and Mullica Hill MMs, along with Christine Greenland, co-clerk of the Gifts Working Group, Plymouth MM; Kathleen Wooten, who will speak about visitation of Friends' meetings at quarterly meeting, Lawrence MM, Salem Quarter, New England Yearly Meeting; and Phil Anthony, coordinator, Chestnut Hill MM.

**Opening worship.** The group entered worship at the appointed hour of 7:30 pm. Out of the silence, names were lifted up of Friends who had recently died and their families, and those facing difficulties.

**Healing retreat.** It was reported that the quarter healing retreat held on 3/31 was successful. About 22 Friends participated. The queries, small-group time, sharing, and worship with attention to healing were appreciated by those who attended. Contributions from the group just about covered all expenses. Thanks were offered to Michael Gibson, Dana Gayner, and Mary Waddington.

**Spiritual accountability retreat.** Clerk Rebecca Shapiro reminded the group that it had been decided to hold an all-day workshop on spiritual accountability, facilitated by Central Philadelphia MM's Viv Hawkins. This had to be cancelled when a conflict arose with the selected date. It was decided to pursue the workshop in the fall. Possible dates are 10/20 and 10/27, both Saturdays.

**PYM Meeting on Worship & Ministry.** The Meeting on Worship & Ministry will gather at Makefield MM, Bucks Quarter, on Saturday, 10/6. Everyone with a concern for worship, vocal ministry, and eldering is welcome, but especially members of monthly and quarterly meeting Worship & Ministry committees. Christine Greenland, who is part of the group that facilitates its biannual meetings, said that the facilitating group is now down to three members with the departure of two long-time participants for the Midwest.

She invited Friends to discern whether they might be called to join the facilitating group, and encouraged Salem Quarter members to attend the 10/6 gathering. The gathering typically consists of extended waiting worship in the morning, followed by consideration of what arose in

worship during the afternoon. Becky suggested that one of the monthly meetings in Salem Quarter might want to invite the Meeting on Worship and Ministry to gather here.

**Quarter Worship & Ministry.** Only two of the quarter's meetings were represented tonight. Friends from the other five are invited to come in the future. Most people don't know what happens at Worship & Ministry meetings. The suggestion was made that Worship & Ministry members visit the other monthly meetings, modelling intervisitation, and tell them about Worship & Ministry.

The clerk wondered whether a time other than the Friday evening before quarterly meeting would be more conducive to Friends from other meetings attending. Becky said that if the meeting were held the week before, she could prepare a report for quarterly meeting in the absence of the coordinator. No decision was made, but it was decided to ask the other monthly meetings for their input.

**Prayer group.** Phil Anthony reported that a quarter prayer group meeting was held at Cumberland Community College on the fifth Sunday of April, 4/29. Three Millville-area Friends attended, and a fourth sent regrets. Three others were also present. Those from Millville expressed their appreciation for the presence of Friends from outside the area. Becky will arrange for the next prayer session in Vineland for Sunday, 7/29. Friends from all the quarter's meetings would be welcome.

**Friends and prayer.** A Friend had recently heard that prayer, especially prayer for monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings, is an essential part of Quaker practice. If this is true, she asked, why had she not heard of it before? Discussion turned to eldering, which includes holding Friends' meetings in prayer, and to the confusion between "eldering" as scolding and serving as an elder to lift up and support Friends. The Friend asked where one can get training. This is one of the topics considered at gatherings of the PYM Meeting on Worship & Ministry, it was noted. There are also books and pamphlets, such as Margery Mears Larrabee's Pendle Hill pamphlet *Spirit-Led Eldering: Integral to Our Faith and Practice*. Another Friend expects to gather a selection of written resources and offer them to his meeting for its adult religious education.

**Gifts Working Group.** Christine Greenland reported for the Gifts Working Group, of which she is co-clerk. The group last met on Satur-

day, 4/28, at Woodstown MM. Questions about how the group can best serve Salem Quarter were raised. What gifts does the quarter feel in need of? There is still a lot of grieving happening. There was also a sense that monthly meetings feel the need for gifts of listening nonjudgmentally, and also of compassion.

The group is seeking direction in a time of transition and hopes to be of service. More members would be welcome. However, not everyone has the gift of evoking gifts, Christine said. Another Friend lifted up the verses in the epistles of Paul that called for “edification, exhortation, and comfort” of one another. The next meeting of the group has not yet been set because of summer schedules, but many of the group’s members expect to be at quarterly meeting on Sunday.

**Closing worship.** The meeting closed with worship at 9:30 pm, followed by time for fellowship and conversation.

For the committee,  
*Phil Anthony, coordinator.*

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## ***September Quarterly Meeting***

***Join us as we enjoy a picnic supper under the ancient Sycamore trees and worship by candlelight.***

***Beth Reaves, Interim Head of School at Friends School Mullica Hill, will speak of their current plans and hopes for the future in uncertain times.***





*From Our Friends School  
Service Learning is DOING!  
by Erica Salmon*

At Friends School Mullica Hill, we embrace our Quaker roots. In doing so, we actively incorporate service learning into our students' experiences by having our faculty and staff members look for opportunities to make service an integral part of our curriculum, not just an add-on. We want to give our students a global sense of who they are and an understanding of how fortunate they are to live in the community we live in. We have clean water and healthy food, as well as access to books, health care and other resources that some people in our world would never dream of. Our students can read and write. We are a community made up of those who "have." It is our responsibility to reach out to those who "have not."

### Stepping Forward

From Pre-K to 8th grade, FSMH students are taught to think about others. We want them to look around — to next door neighbors and to people on the other side of the world — to recognize how to use our talents and resources to help others. After identifying ways in which we



Students from Friends School join this year's ARC walk.

can help, we work with students to actively do it.

Spending time, hand-in-hand, with disabled adults at ARC is how some FSMH students make connections. Collecting food and then physically packing lunches for Project Box Lunch is how other students understand that it takes time and energy to help others. We give younger students a chance to participate by giving them the opportunity to give their birthday money to *Charity: Water*, which brings clean, safe drinking water to people in developing nations, or *The Heifer Project*, which gives livestock to developing nations to promote sustainable farming. Recycling on campus and at home is important and everyone on our campus is encouraged to be environmentally friendly. Our 8th graders all complete two individual service projects in order to graduate. It is about doing it, not just talking about doing it.

### **A Lifelong Lesson**

When our students leave Friends School Mullica Hill, it is our hope that they do so with a sense of service. We want them to be empathetic and compassionate individuals who continue to look for ways to serve. Simply put, we want them to be “givers.” We want them to be aware that it is everyone’s responsibility to make this a better community and a better planet. It is not the responsibility of “someone else.” It is our job!

As a result, we do know that many of our alumni go on to live lives that reflect their own individual commitment to service. Erin DeCou FSMH ‘97 is now a farm educator at Greener Partners, an organization that works to connect communities through food, farms and education in the Philadelphia area. Through Greener Partners’ programs and projects, the staff works to increase and strengthen public access to fresh, seasonal and local food. They also work to train new farmers in resilient farming techniques so that they can achieve success in the local food economy. And finally, they educate people of all ages about the origins of their food and empower them to create healthy communities. While this is only one example of a FSMH graduate choosing a life of service, we know that so many others do as well! Our students learn early on that thinking about others and DOING something to help others is important.



*Reflections*  
*by Tom Etherington*

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*Shut Up and Listen*

Just as an artist looks past the inessential elements to see the essential lines and forms of the subject, so the Quaker meeting looks past the inessential and temporary to see the eternal, spiritual truth of the matter and responds to that which is of God in the situation. Personalities and circumstances are mere shadows of the Truth that is the world as God created it to be.

Finding the sense of the meeting is not a process of looking for agreement, but is an act of seeking that will end in discovery. Instead of finding a least common denominator to which everyone can agree, our intention is to find the Truth, even if it challenges everyone's point of view. The hope is that if we keep our minds open and hearts open, we will recognize the Truth when we find it, and relinquish our selfish ideas and desires and embrace the Truth that God has revealed to us.

A term that jangles in my consciousness whenever I hear it is "Quaker Process." Quaker process sounds like we're in a factory, where we put something on a conveyor belt, do some standard mechanical things to it and a finished product pops out at the end. The term is of recent origin and is the antithesis, I think, of "Seeking the Sense of the Meeting." Quaker Process confuses finding a sense of the meeting, an act of spiritual discernment, with finding consensus, an intellectual act of sorting people's opinions until you find one with which everyone can agree. Consensus is a process of voting which requires not just a simple majority but a unanimous vote. Sometimes the only way we get this unanimous vote is by someone "standing aside", that is, agreeing not to vote so the vote can seem unanimous.

In practice, consensus is a much less demanding path than spiritual discernment.

When looking for consensus, we expect everyone to speak, and to voice agreement with ideas either vocally or by the nodding of heads. In spiritual discernment, we expect more listening than speaking. We are on an expedition of waiting and listening to discover a Truth which supercedes our own ideas. We hope that as we listen inwardly to the voice of

God, and outwardly to the voice of our friends, we will come to understand the spiritual reality with which we are dealing. We hope that we will arrive at a place where our understandings have been deepened and we know more than we did before.

One lesson I learned along this way happened when I was a member of Woodbury Meeting. A transgender homeless person had been attending our meeting for some time. The meeting had taken her under its care and did its best to provide lodging and other care. The women of the meeting decided her disheveled appearance was unacceptable. They told her, "If you're going to dress like a woman you need to know how." They instructed the attender in dress and how to apply makeup.

There came a time when our attender wanted to join the meeting. Opinions differed. I was one of those who thought the application should not be accepted, principally because I thought it would hurt public opinion of our meeting. Why did we always attract the odd balls and crazy people? We spent a good deal of time at meeting for business discussing what should be done. In those days at Woodbury, our meeting for business was held before our meeting for worship. If we needed more time, the business meeting would be continued after worship. So, it being time for meeting for worship, we adjourned meeting for business and went into the worship room. During that period of worship, it was opened to me that our business was not to worry about the world's opinion but to love God's children. It was that Truth which united us when we resumed meeting for business. Our search had brought us to a higher spiritual understanding than we had before. When we finally put aside our own opinions we were shown that love was the heart of the matter. That was the sense of the meeting.



*Plan to  
display your  
art work in  
Salem's Annex  
at December  
Quarterly Meeting*

*We're looking for two-dimensional art ready for hanging. Tables will be available on which to display three-dimensional art. Because of time constraints on Sunday morning, all work should be received by Saturday morning December 8. It is helpful if artists can be there to hang or arrange their work. If you are unable to deliver your art work, contact Mary Waddington who will attempt to arrange for pickup. If you are planning to bring art, it is helpful if you notify Mary about what you're bringing so she can reserve space for you and possibly ask you to bring someone else's work. Mary may be reached at [marywaddington@comcast.net](mailto:marywaddington@comcast.net) or at 856-935-0683.*

## *Directions to Greenwich Meeting*

1. Take Rt. 77 or 40 to Pole Tavern Circle (where 77 & 40 cross) and follow directions from #2 below. **OR** Take Rt. 49 to Shiloh and turn onto 620, then follow the directions from #4. below.
2. From Pole Tavern Circle take Rt. 635 to Rt. 49. (Route 49 joins from the right. No need to turn, just continue straight ahead.) [If you run into a detour on Rt. 620 around a car show, don't worry. The detour should take you to Rt. 49. Go left on route 49.]
3. Continue on 49 East for about a mile to the small town of Shiloh. The road is suddenly surrounded by trees.
4. From Shiloh take Rt. 620 to where it dead-ends at Rt. 623
5. Go left. Follow that road through Greenwich. The meetinghouse is on the left at 1066 Te Greate St.

Lost? Call 609-206-5329

***Salem Quarter News*** is the official publication of **Salem Quarterly Meeting** of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and appears four times a year. Please address all comments and questions to Tom Etherington, editor. (address below)

***Contributions:*** Electronic files are appreciated by the editor, including e-mail, and/or .doc, .txt, .rtf, and .odt files sent as attachments. Paper copy is OK. A printed page consists of 39 lines of about 490 words, plus the header.

Photographs and drawings are also preferred in electronic format. The larger the file size, the better. (I.e. more pixels are better, set picture size to large when possible.) Although most will appear in black and white in SQNews, please submit photos in color. Send contributions to etherington.t@gmail.com. It will help if you start the subject line with SQNews. Mailing address is Tom Etherington, 5775 Irving Ave., Pennsauken, NJ 08109. Questions? Send to the above e-mail or call 609-206-5329. Deadline for the Winter edition will be October 22.

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***Proofreading:*** Lois Dinshah, Mullica Hill MM; Gloria Horvay Mickleton MM.

***Editorial Advisory Board*** Becky Shapiro, Salem MM; Judy Suplee, Mullica Hill MM; Cindy Vitto; Mullica Hill MM.



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**Salem Quarterly Meeting** meets in session for business four times a year and carries on activities at other times. It is made up of the southernmost Quaker congregations in New Jersey. The monthly meetings gather for business once a month and meet in worship every Sunday. Many also provide children's or adult First-day School (religious education). The worship groups schedule their meetings differently. Call the listed numbers or visit the websites for information. The monthly meetings and worship groups making up Salem Quarter are:

**Greenwich:** Upper Greate Street P.O. Box 18, Greenwich, N.J. 08323  
856-451-8217, 15 Sep–15 Jun, Lower Greate Street 15 Jun–15 Sept,  
Worship 9-9:45, 9:45-10 After-words and general fellowship, 10:00- no  
longer than 11:00, First Day School, children and adults.

**Mickleton:** 413 Kings Highway, Mickleton, N.J. 08056 856-845-7682  
[www.pym.org/salem-qm/mickleton](http://www.pym.org/salem-qm/mickleton) [www.meetup.com/mickletonmeeting/](http://www.meetup.com/mickletonmeeting/) Worship 10:00 am, children's First-day School 10:15

**Mullica Hill:** 2 Woodstown Road (Route 45 just south of Route 77), P.O. Box  
67, Mullica Hill, N.J. 08062 856- 478-2184 [mullicahillfriends.org](http://mullicahillfriends.org)  
Sunday School 9:45 am, worship 11:00 am Sep–May; worship 10:00 am  
Jun–Aug

**Salem:** East Broadway at Walnut Street, P.O. Box 7, Salem, N.J. 08079  
Worship 10:30; First Day School 9:15 am Sept.-May

**Seaville:** 3088 South Shore Road (Rte. 9, 1 mile S. of Rte. 50), Ocean View,  
N.J. 08230 609-624-1165 [seavillequaker.tripod.com](http://seavillequaker.tripod.com)  
Worship 10:00 am; Children's First Day School 10:00 am. Beach meet-  
ing (weather permitting) Grant Street beach, Cape May, May–Oct, 9:00  
am

**Southern State Worship Group:** Call Roshan Dinshah for info 856-694-3025

**Woodbury:** 124 North Broad Street, Woodbury, N.J. 08096, 856 -845-5080  
[www.pym.org/pym\\_mms/woodburynj\\_salq.php](http://www.pym.org/pym_mms/woodburynj_salq.php) [www.meetup.com/Woodbury-Friends-Meeting/](http://www.meetup.com/Woodbury-Friends-Meeting/)  
First-day School 10:00 am, worship 11:15  
am

**Woodstown,** 104 North Main St., P.O. Box 13, Woodstown, N.J. 08098,  
856- 769-9839 <http://www.woodstownfriends.org/> First-day School  
9:15 am Worship 10:30 am

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LISTMASTERS

**Salem Quarterly Meeting**  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the  
Religious Society of Friends  
PO Box 55  
Woodstown, NJ 08098-0055  
**Change Service Requested**

## Quarterly Meeting

September 9, 2012

at Greenwich Lower Meeting House

(Directions on p. 22)

**2:30 Gather**

**3:00 Business Meeting**

**5:00 Supper (bring your own)**

**6:00 Program (Beth Reaves  
Friends School MullicaHill)**

**7:00 Worship**

Child care, beverages, and dessert provided.