



FALLSINGTON MONTHLY MEETING

May 2011 Newsletter

CALENDAR:

****Friends, this is not the final schedule for Adult Class. Louise Salinas will announce more of the details as they are needed.****

Sunday, May 8, 10 a.m. Adult Class. Worship & Ministry invites you to a discussion of mothers and motherhood from a Biblical perspective. We will read various selections and discuss them.

Sunday, May 15, Quarterly Meeting – Plumstead Meeting – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Details were sent by separate email, or refer to *Quakerphernalia* for details.

Sunday, May 22 – 10 a.m. Adult Class. In continuing with our program to hear spiritual journeys, a meeting member will speak about his/her personal journey.

Sunday, May 29 – Memorial Day Weekend – 10 a.m. Bill Deckhart of Coalition for Peace Action – Bill will present the "25% Solution." This is the brainchild of Rep. Barney Frank who seeks to cut the military budget by 25% without jeopardizing national security. Peace & Service Committee members, Joe and Pat Chelius will host the class.

Looking ahead.

Friday, June 3 6 p.m. Special Called Session of the Finance Committee (See below).

Sunday, June 5, 9:30 a.m. Meeting for Business. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

A Called Session of the Finance Committee will be held on June 3 to begin considering important financial issues being faced by the Meeting. There will be a covered dish supper followed by discussion. The issues and questions for Friends to consider were printed in the February newsletter, and will be sent out again in a separate email before the called session. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

On Saturday, May 14, there will be a **Mimesis** workshop at Falls Meetinghouse using the Biblical story of Tobit, led by Liza and John DiMino. Mimesis is a process that uses roleplay of stories and myths as a way of understanding our world, our cultures and ourselves better. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$75 which will go to benefit the Lakota Project; reduced fee is available. Refreshments will be provided, and a potluck dinner will follow. To register, or for more information, email John DiMino: jdimino@temple.edu or call (215) 736-3023.

The annual **Memorial Day parade** through Fallsington will begin at 1:30 on Sunday, May 29. Sam Snipes and his team of horses will be participating. Friends who do not wish to stay for the parade are advised to leave the parking lot by 1:00 to avoid being stuck.

An excellent Easter program at Fallsington Meeting was led by Jonathan Sprout and Jonathan Snipes and many others. Amy and David Brimmer read passages from Bible. In attendance that day were Marc and Dr. Susan Asch from North Oaks, MN, and their daughters, Dr. Sarah Asch and Rebecca Asch who is in medical school. Sarah and Evan Schnell and children reside in Pittsburgh while she completes her residency. Rebecca lives in northern New Jersey.

Louise Salinas gave an illuminating talk about the eight Meetings that comprise Cuba Yearly Meeting, centered in eastern Cuba. She mentioned the charisma and devotion that many active members display. Louise visited them in behalf of the Friends World Committee for Consultation.

Members of our Meeting participated in the vigil on Good Friday at Delia's gun shop in Northeast Philadelphia. Marion, Jonathan and Melanie Snipes joined about 200 other people representing Heeding God's Call which endeavors to have gun shop owners sign a Code of Conduct to eliminate the sale of illegal guns. A vigil is held on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 5:30. Carpooling is available.

Creative Opportunities to Put Our Values Into Practice:

Friends, as you know, Bucks Food for Friends began at Fallsington Friends Meeting almost three years ago. Since the inception, the program has grown to 12 sites for a communal, free meal each month. We have had a fantastic showing of volunteerism from many Meetings in the Quarter and from non-Friends too. We have never had a time where we were understaffed with helpers. In fact, we have had some months in which the volunteers outnumbered the guests. The designers of the program felt that Fallsington did more than its share by generously making the Meetinghouse available. Now, we are opening the volunteer positions and hence this announcement. If anyone from the Meeting has the availability – which will be more occasional rather than steady – to represent the Meeting membership during a dinner, please contact me. Our responsibility is the third Monday of every month. Also, if anyone is curious about how the dinner functions, feel free to contact me (garden6877@verizon.net or 215-295-2040) so that we can expect you. ~ *Marion Snipes*

A second outreach opportunity exists in the formation of a new board replacing the Lower Bucks Center for Church and Community (LBCCC). Its interim name is Lower Bucks Interfaith Community (LBIC). The focus of this new organization is multi-faith. Friends would be interested to know that among the activities for multi-faith exploration, a suggestion was made that church congregations participate in each other's services. Various Protestant sects are involved with plans for bringing in Muslims and Jews. During a brainstorming session, ideas such as broad Thanksgiving celebration and ecology efforts were mentioned. If anyone can spare a couple of evenings a month and would like to help grow this movement, please contact Marion (see above).



Reach Out Foundation in Morrisville has several connections to Fallsington Meeting. Leslie DeLuca is a part time employee there as was Dave DeLuca. David Kime, Marie Kime's brother, has asked us to announce the fundraiser on Wednesday, May 11 (details sent by separate email).

Singer-songwriter **Jon Watts** has finished his sojourn in our meetinghouse and is back in Philadelphia recording his CD. He expressed deep gratitude to the members of Falls Friends for allowing him to use the space. In return Jon plans to do a concert at the meetinghouse in September. An ad hoc committee is being formed to organize this concert. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please contact Amy Brimmer or George Price.

On April 26, Jonathan Snipes and Amy Ward Brimmer joined twelve members of **Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT)** in Washington D.C. to attend the annual meeting of PNC Financial Services Group shareholders. Representing Fallsington Friends Meeting's PNC shares, we intended to explain our position on PNC's Mountaintop Removal (MTR) policies and support the testimony of Amber Whittington of Kayford Mountain, West Virginia, who came to share the reality of living in the coal fields next to an MTR site.

The meeting was held in PNC's brand new LEED Platinum-certified building. Like Friends Center in Philadelphia, it is the first commercial structure in DC to receive this highest rating. EQAT clerk Carolyn McCoy (CPMM) spoke first, saying that as a Quaker, and knowing the Quaker heritage of PNC, she could not condone any investments in companies that engage in MTR. CEO James Rohr responded that he is well aware of the history of PNC and proud of its Quaker foundations. Lee Reinert (Downingtown) addressed the meeting as a teacher with concerns for the health and well-being of the children of Appalachia, and member Walter Hjelt Sullivan (CPMM) was moved by Spirit to ask PNC whether there was any business they would not invest in, even if it was profitable, because it went against their conscience. After a moment, James Rohr said he thought there was, but he could not think of an example. It was a powerful moment.

EQAT also brought gifts for each PNC board member—a framed photograph of Appalachian mountains and a packet of information about MTR. Several interesting and possibly fruitful conversations took place between board members and EQAT folks, which served to bridge the gap and make us more recognizable and more human to one another. For more information about EQAT or to become an activist, visit www.eqat.wordpress.com. ~ Amy Brimmer



The Peace Center is hosting a Gandhi Celebration Weekend on Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 13, to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's enduring message of non-violence through the work of his grandson, Arun Gandhi, and support The Peace Center's work of promoting acceptance and respect through prevention and intervention programs. The Benefit Party on Friday features a presentation by Mr. Gandhi, followed by a cocktail reception. The Family Day on Saturday features a Q&A session with Mr. Gandhi, crafts, Kirtan and music, yoga, and snacks. Proceeds from the Private Reception and Benefit Party will benefit The Peace Center's work in conflict resolution, bullying prevention, and mediation. Benefit: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., New Hope Ramada, \$75/person. Family Day: 10:00 a.m.– Noon, New Hope Solebury Elementary, \$10/person. Detailed information on website:

<http://www.thepeacecenterpa.com/2011/03/benefit-party-with-arun-ghandi>

News of Friends:

Harry and Lois Forrest of Medford Meeting – who first joined Friends at Fallsington Meeting in the 1950 era – spoke to us on April 17 about the Quaker Quest program for attracting new members to the Society of Friends. We are currently reflecting about our Meeting's ability to participate in this project.

James and Deborah Fine sent Easter greetings from Sulaymaniyah, the second largest city in Iraqi Kurdistan. Jim is the administrator/development/relief officer in the area for the Mennonite Central Committee by whom they both were hired. Deb teaches at St. Peter's Chaldean Catholic Seminary. They write, "The protests in the Iraqi cities are part of the "Arab Spring" of demonstrations that began in Tunisia and Egypt and have swept through the region." (The Fines' emails are richly detailed about their experience in Iraq. If anyone would like to read them, contact Marion or Sam and we will make the file available.)

Marion Smith Snipes has joined the board of the Peace Center. This wonderful organization strives to prevent violence, promote peaceful resolution of conflict and foster inclusive, equitable and safe communities locally, nationally and worldwide.

We rejoice in the arrival of our newest members, **Richard, Amy and Jackson (age 16) Wagner** of 90 Hedgerow Drive, Morrisville PA 19067. Their application for membership was approved at business meeting on May 1.

Launchings!

Congratulations to **Rachel Wells** as she graduates from Smith College in Northampton, MA on May 14, 2011. Rachel is interviewing now for a teaching position.

Sara DiMino will also graduate this month on May 28 from George School. She is headed for Temple University in September.

Charlotte Wells is back from her "gap year" abroad in Spain. She will attend Elizabethtown College near Lancaster PA this September. Her father, **Tom Wells**, visited her in Spain in late April and accompanied her home.

Please hold in the Light:

Fred Veith is recuperating from a heart attack. He is at home. Fre Veith and baby Nao are here from Japan staying with the Veiths. Cheryl and their wonderful Mexican work crew have kept their landscaping business going as Fred recovers. Cards and emails can be sent to them at 229 Wrights Rd. Newtown, PA 18940 or creativeessentials@verizon.net

Dave and Leslie DeLuca are going through some difficult times, and would welcome calls and/or emails from Friends to check in. (215) 736-2852 or MountainGoat85@verizon.net



"This is what you shall do: Love the earth and sun and the animals, despise riches, give alms to everyone that asks, stand up for the stupid and crazy, devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants, argue not concerning God, have patience and indulgence toward the people, go freely with the young and with the mothers of families, read these leaves in the open air every season of every year of your life, dismiss whatever insults your own soul, and your very flesh shall be a great poem."

~ Walt Whitman



Thanks to all who donated "squibs" for this newsletter. If you have news or items for next month's newsletter, please send them to **Marion Snipes** at garden6877@verizon.net

Friends, if you are not currently on the list to receive the monthly newsletter and would like to be added, or know of others who would like to receive it, please send email addresses to **Liza DiMino**. ldimino@yahoo.com.