

**Scarsdale Friends Meeting**  
**Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**  
**14 November 2010**

The meeting began with a period of worship. Instead of the usual reading, the clerk asked the meeting to hold Ginny Blanford, John Bryant and Ginny's sister in the Light. The family is coping with the sister's serious and possibly deteriorating medical condition.

Those present were Bowen Alpern, Nancy Styx, Carol Holmes, Ted Taylor, Matt Scanlon, Kristy Vant, Eunice Laughlin, Anne Wright, Robin Alpern, Mary Eagleson, clerk, and Ruth Bryan, recording.

2010-11-1. Retreat planning committee is distributing a flyer to see whether there is enough interest to allow a retreat without undue financial burden to the meeting. There were suggestions for having a joint retreat, either with another meeting or with another congregation.

The report was accepted.

2010-11-2. The nominating committee recommended that Fred Hoffman and Harry Coons be named to the Buildings and Grounds committee. The meeting approved.

2010-11-3. Kristy Vant reported for the **committee on Buildings and Grounds**.

This month B&G welcomed our prospective new members Fred Hoffman and Harry Coons.

The clean-up day went well as we prepared the site to receive the new tool shed. The shed was installed Nov. 1, was painted and the tools now reside in their new home. A key will be kept in the B&G mailbox. Harry and Bob both have additional keys.

We are moving toward the installation of the toy shed. There is some excavation needed and the building of a retaining wall before we bring the toy shed in. A notice has gone out on the list-serve and newsletter looking for stones to do this work. We have made a request to the Nursery school to contribute to the cost of this shed.

The fire Inspector has informed us that the Elm tree in front of the door to the social room must be removed as it blocks an entrance and inhibits handicap accessibility. We have a quote from our Arborist to remove that tree as well as another ash tree by Popham Rd that is dying and is a hazard. We plan to do this removal ASAP. We have an estimate of \$3000 + \$400 to grind the stump for the elm tree. The meeting asks building and grounds to get other estimates to use in negotiating with the arborist and authorizes building and grounds to proceed as they see fit. It was agreed that the issue with our neighbor regarding our access to the driveway behind the Meetinghouse is something that the Trustees should take care of, B&G. Mary and Bob will carry this message to that committee and ask that they addresses it

ASAP as it affects the plans for handicap accessibility in our master plan for the property. We also feel it is important to identify our exact property line at the back of the Meetinghouse.

November 21 was set as the leaf clean-up day. Sue has put it in the newsletter and on list-serve.

It was noted that Memorial bench for Bronwin Baird is in need of stripping and re-staining. B&G has asked Sue to put it out in the newsletter and list-serve to see if there is someone in the Meeting who is willing to take on this project.

The Chimney was repaired this week with some bricks replaced, pointing where needed and chimney cleaning for \$350.

The insurance company has been by to appraise the damage done to the floor in the social room by the drama program. They will get back to us with their solution.

B&G is working to bring awareness of the problem of the lack of storage space in the Meetinghouse. We agree that all users of the building must be sensitive to this issue and work to reduce storage and clutter. Simplicity is encouraged. B&G has moved the tools out of the backroom which will allow all participants easier access to their individual areas/shelves.

There are concerns about the Nursery School using the teen room for storage.

Marylin will carry this and the general issue of storage and clutter to the nursery committee who will work with the Nursery School personnel to stay on top of this problem. We have also asked that they look into the legal regulations around nursery school usage of the outdoor area outside the large classroom.

B&G would like to wait on the purchase of a new picnic table until next Spring so that it does not sit out all winter. The Nursery school has fund-raised and will contribute \$250 toward this. The existing table, which is causing splinters, will be removed.

A painting company will begin work on the ceilings in the hallway and classrooms, as well as the bathrooms on Monday Nov. 15. The total cost of this work will be \$1,500. They will work around the nursery school schedule.

The meeting accepted the report.

2010-11-4. Sue Weisfeld gave a preliminary report on the fundraising dinner held November 6. A more detailed report will be provided to next month's Meeting for business. As you know, on Saturday evening, November 5, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee sponsored a wonderful fund raiser buffet. The money raised will be used to purchase socks, underwear and other warm items for men and women in four local homeless shelters.

The total in hand so far is \$1,080 which is about \$350 short of the money needed, but several people who could not attend did pledge that they would contribute. This total also includes some money from people who did not attend. In the meantime, this is definitely enough to purchase the basic items for the permanent residents at Open Arms, Fessenden House and Samaritan House.

People contributed fabulous food, including salads, side dishes, interesting meat and meatless main dishes and incredible desserts. One new attender, Dorothy Saraceno, brought a dish and then could not stay. The excellent cook at Central Plaza diner made a huge Greek salad for the event. Many wonderful Friends helped with set-up and clean-up, including

our long-time building caretaker, Gordon Hamilton. Our evening's speaker, Fessenden House director Christopher Jenks, gave an excellent talk and there was a lively discussion after he had finished. He gave a very realistic and sobering picture of the lives of Fessenden residents, but did have some optimistic messages about how people can change their lives with help and support.

There was such warmth and joy in our social room during the entire evening, and everyone was aware of what we are trying to do -- not just to provide material items, but to show we care and truly feel that all of us in this life are connected.

Thanks so much everyone for making this a successful evening!

Sue's acupuncturist contributed 50 pairs of boot socks and Sue purchased several heavy shirts at a thrift shop in Flushing.

The meeting accepted the report.

2010-11-5. Ministry and Counsel

The committee asks that the Nominating Committee find a replacement for Cindy Antrim, at her request, since ongoing personal and professional commitments prevent her from attending meetings and participating fully in the business of the committee. Cindy recognizes the centrality of this committee and its need for members who can fully commit themselves to its work. Cindy will continue to be involved in several tasks and will be available to consult with the committee.

The next Singing and Sharing session will be on 11/21 at 10:00, before meeting for worship. All are invited to participate.

The committee has tentatively selected Saturday, 2/5 as the date for a full-day workshop on Aging and Quaker Values, to which members of the Quarter will be invited. The committee is exploring possible locations for this workshop, since our meeting house is not available on Saturdays.

A threshing session to begin the process of writing our State of the Meeting report will be scheduled, probably for early January, as soon as a query is received from New York Yearly Meeting.

Eliza Bryant's welcoming committee was appointed. Anne Wright, Sue Weisfeld, and Ruth Bryan, for the evening before Thanksgiving.

The meeting on aging will be 2/5 at Purchase meetinghouse.

2010-11-6. Bowen Alpern reported on the meeting of Purchase Quarter, held last Sunday. The minutes from Purchase quarterly meeting will be attached.

2010-11-7. Mary Eagleson reported on two items from Fall Sessions of the New York Yearly Meeting, which are being concluded today.

The 2011 budget for the Yearly Meeting, which was approved, was slightly less than that for 2010. Based on the covenant donation amounts provided by monthly meetings, it is expected to be a balanced budget. It did not, however, provide for a number of expenditures which the body of the Yearly Meeting feels to be very important. These were listed at the end of the budget document, with the following introductory statement: "The following are items requested for inclusion in the budget. At this time

Financial Services is not aware of anticipated revenue that would allow for their inclusion in the budget. These items are listed in the priority order discerned by Friends at Budget Saturday. This group also reached clarity that if additional partial funding was available for a Tier, then the items in that Tier would be funded proportionately to the amounts they would receive if the tier were fully funded.”

The Friends present at the discussion heard a suggestion that we return to our monthly meetings and ask if we might increase our covenant donations so that the items listed in the three tiers might be funded. The budget documents will be posted on the yearly meeting website, [www.nyym.org](http://www.nyym.org).

The second item of interest was a report from Christopher Sammond and Ann Davidson on their visit to the joint board meeting of FUM held last summer in Kenya. They also attended meetings of the United Society of Friends Women International (USFWI) and Quaker Men International (QMI). They reported a new eagerness on the part of Kenyan Friends to learn more about the Peace Testimony from North American Friends, no doubt as a result of the violence following a disputed election in Kenya two years ago. Two Kenyan yearly meetings have asked to partner with New York Yearly Meeting, and this will be brought to our yearly meeting for consideration.

The North American board of FUM is considering a restructuring which would allow it to give responsibility for a number of historic projects, including Ramallah Friends School, Lugulu Hospital, Kaimosi Hospital and Friends Theological College, to the local yearly meetings or to devolve them to be independent entities. The restructuring proposal would also require that member yearly meetings make a minimum financial contribution to the administrative fund in order to maintain membership. These recommendations, proposed by a Restructuring Committee, received a mixed response at a February meeting of the North American board and an even cooler response in Africa.

The meeting received the report.

The meeting closed with a period of silence.

The next meeting for worship with a concern for business will be on Sunday, December 12, 2010, after a brief social hour.

Mary Eagleson, Clerk,  
Ruth Bryan, acting as recording clerk

**PURCHASE QUARTERLY MEETING**  
**November 7, 2010**

PRESENT: Karli Wheeler, Amawalk; Carol Holmes, Brooklyn; Esme Ingledeu, Stamford-Greenwich; Bowen Alpern, Scarsdale; Peter Close, Purchase; Judy Meikle, Wilton; Sirkka Barbour, Chappaqua; Hugh Barbour, Chappaqua; Opal Broner, Westbury; Glen Johnson, Croton Valley; Brian Doherty, Purchase; Janet Hough, Chappaqua; Deb Wood, Purchase; Norma Ellis, Scarsdale

The meeting opened with silent worship during which clerk Norma Ellis read a quote from George Fox in Faith and Practice.

A **minute of travel for Judy Meikle**, Wilton Meeting, was presented, asking Purchase Quarterly Meeting to consider endorsement. It had already been endorsed by New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) at Summer Sessions 2010. Judy will be traveling in a ministry of kindness regarding the United States criminal justice system, particularly the juvenile justice system. She has been working to end the death penalty in Connecticut, and expressed her gratification with the progress on this issue. The minute was approved for endorsement and is attached.

Janet Hough read the attached report of the **Stamford-Greenwich Monthly Meeting Care Committee** requesting discontinuance of Stamford-Greenwich Monthly Meeting. Friends accepted the report, and approved the discontinuance of Stamford-Greenwich Monthly Meeting. The report and this minute will be forwarded to the NYYM Trustees, who are already aware of this proposed action.

Treasurer Glen Johnson distributed the attached **Treasurer's Report** for November 7, 2010. He noted that a gift to Prisons Committee of \$1000 had been received from NYYM, and \$600 had been distributed to parolees. Expenses from the October 21-22 retreat organized by Ministry & Counsel, and the invoice for an advertisement in Friends Journal for the Peace Tax Escrow Fund are not reflected in this report.

Norma reminded Friends that Purchase Quarterly Meeting had agreed to host NYYM **Spring Sessions in 2012**. A committee will need to be formed to manage this event. The clerk would welcome Friends who feel led to this work.

The attached **minute of travel** from Purchase Meeting for **Margaret Lechner**, who will be traveling with her ministry of conflict resolution in Central America, was approved for endorsement. Friends requested that it be forwarded to Fall Sessions, and recommended endorsement there.

Janet Hough reported on the **October 21-22 retreat** held at Wilton Meeting that was organized by PQM M&C on the role of vocal ministry in the spiritual life of the meeting, and the role of the meeting in drawing forth vocal ministers and providing support and accountability for that ministry. Twenty-three Friends participated, mainly from Purchase Quarter. It was led by Noah Baker Merrill and Sadie Forsythe, part of the Traveling Ministries Program of Friends General Conference. Woody Schempp is preparing a report that will be distributed to the Yearly Meeting and to Friends in the Quarter.

Sue Weisfeld, clerk of **Peace and Social Concerns Committee**, read the attached report on the program on countering military recruitment in schools that was held at Purchase Meeting on September 22. The PSC Committee asked that Friends contact the clerk with the names and contact information for schools and parent groups where this program could be presented, especially around Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

Glen Johnson reminded monthly meeting treasurers that the **QM budget for 2011** will be considered for one hour prior to worship at February Quarterly Meeting. He said the NYYM draft 2011 budget had been considered on Budget Saturday on October 2. Several projects that

exceed the projected income by about \$25,000 could be funded if part or all of that income is realized. He noted that in 2010 several individuals had donated about \$5000 directly to the YM Operating Budget, and expressed the hope that those individuals and others would consider extending their generosity to the coming year's budget.

The next Quarterly Meeting will be held at Purchase Meeting on February 6, 2011.

The minutes were approved. The meeting closed with silent reflection.

Norma Ellis  
Clerk

Deb Wood  
Recording Clerk