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# Doylestown Friends Meeting

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March 2010

## Meeting for Business

Sunday March 14, Rise of Meeting

## Monthly Forum (1st Sunday)

March 7, at 11:30 am. Rick Howe will speak about "Archiving Doylestown Friends Meeting History." What do we keep and in what form? Plus a discussion of Meeting history, 1806 - 1955.

## Sun March 28

All Meeting Potluck

## Camp Onas Spring Retreat

April 16 to 18, See article

## 2010 Women's Retreat

May 14 and 15, See article

## Ongoing Activities:

2nd Sunday, Rise of Meeting,  
Meeting for Business

3rd Sunday, Rise of Meeting,  
Family Sabbath

3rd Tuesday, 7:15 pm. Nonviolent  
Peaceforce, Meetinghouse

Tuesdays, 6-7 pm Peace Vigil,  
Main and State Streets, D'town

Chanting at 9:30 before Meeting  
with Lisa Wildman

## Refreshments

Bush 3/7  
Carter/Trepeta 3/14  
Castle 3/21

## Doylestown Monthly Meeting Digs In, 1950-1955

At a meeting of the Joint Committee for Bucks & Montgomery County Friends, 4 April 1950, representatives of BQM suggested that Doylestown Friends should form an independent Monthly Meeting. Specifically, a United Meeting to welcome both Orthodox and Hicksite Friends was encouraged. Many of the DFM attenders at that time were members of other Meetings in PA & NJ, some Orthodox, some Hicksite.

Larry Miller responded that the matter of MM status would be handled within the Meeting at the proper time. 3 months later, in his 16 July report to the joint committee, Larry announced that Doylestown Indulged Meeting would become a Monthly Meeting in ten days. He said, "Among the older Friends now attending about half will transfer their membership [to the new MM], 25% are behind the move, but will not transfer now. The remaining 25% are skeptical."

On July 26, 1950, our Monthly Meeting was formed. Doylestown Friends were thereafter responsible for their own business and property, and they incorporated as "Doylestown Monthly Meeting of Friends." They also applied to BQM & Burlington Quarter for recognition. One was Orthodox, the other Hicksite. There were 7 young couples and about 15 children striving to rebuild Meeting. They worked with the blessing of the older Quakers who'd kept the Meeting going for, lo', those many years. Ken Miller was the first child born to DMM members. Larry Miller was perhaps the 1<sup>st</sup> Friend with whom I spoke of the immanent

versus transcendent God, and Byron Morehouse may have been the 1<sup>st</sup> Friend to lend me a book, but Ken was the 1<sup>st</sup> Friend to tell me a Quaker Joke: “Friends came to do good and did well.”

Byron was the first ‘property custodian’, Betty Morehouse, the first FDS superintendent, Larry was treasurer, and Joe Davis the first clerk. Like Larry, Joe was a WW II conscientious objector, a CO. When courting Josie, Joe thought it best to tell her straight away that he’d refused to fight in the war. It was months later he discovered she thought “CO” stood for Commanding Officer. She married him anyway.

AFSC, where Larry Miller had his day job, continued to supply material and speakers for DMM adult classes. A course of study for FDS was agreed upon, wherein nearly every parent took a turn teaching a class. It was noted in the minutes that men should not be exempted as FDS teachers. Then as now children spent 15 minutes with parents and the Meeting before moving to the east side of the Meeting House, just beyond the wood partitions.

There was a problem with noise coming through the thin panels, so Friends hung a curtain 18” from the wood to provide a sound absorption space. It didn’t work very well. Discussion followed of building a second structure in the back yard, or buying the house next door. Electricity had been installed in 1949, but there was still no central heat, only a potbelly stove on the west side of the Meeting House.

A community had grown together. In addition to planning and teaching 4 FDS classes, one being the weekly adult class, Friends collected clothing to send to AFSC posts abroad, prepared budgets, had picnics at Friends’ homes, and joined with the Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom to sponsor forums. Also, in the mid ‘50s, DFM sponsored an Albanian, Fahri Barolli, who had been displaced and marooned in Germany since the end of WW

II. Many Quakers went to NYC to greet him, and then take him to Philadelphia where a job & a place to live awaited.

Elizabeth McCain began to attend Meeting with her 5 year old son, Bill, about the same time as Joe & Josie Davis. Betty was one of the founders of our League-of-Women-Voters chapter and the Lenape Valley Foundation. She lived into old age behind her antiques shop at the corner of Pine and Oakland. Her dad had a US Army career.

At Meeting for Business in July 1951, members and attenders planned 2 courses of action to address the issue of African-Americans’ exclusion from the community swimming pool. They discussed the composition of a letter on human rights to be sent to the trustees of the pool, and to other faith communities in the area. They formed a committee to meet with the trustees of the pool.

By Labor Day all discussion with the community-pool board had ceased. At Meeting for Business in September 1951 Friends sought “sufficient spiritual resources to interview members of the swimming pool board,” in an attempt to re-open talks. Quietly, a connection between Doylestown Friends & the pool board was maintained for 3 years, until July 1954, when the pool finally integrated.

In the 3 March 1953 edition of *The Doylestown Daily Intelligencer* Mitchell C. Hodges writes about Mrs. Harry (Anna) Shoemaker’s study of Indian camp sites in Central Bucks. She was still busy in her late 70s trying to restore Native-American names to streams in Bucks County.

By late 1953, with 18 core families and about 30 children, the Meeting had to do something about the space shortage. Plans advanced for an addition from the back of the Meeting House into the yard. Fund-raising commenced. Adjacent buildings had been considered, but were either unavailable or too costly. By June of 1954, however, it

was clear that the needed funds would not be forthcoming. Unwilling to go into debt, the Meeting decided to pursue another plan.

At the February 1955 Meeting for Business the “final revised plans” were approved for renovation of the Meeting House. Work began April 11, 1955. Friends dug out the basement with shovels and wheelbarrows, taking the dirt up a plank out the rear door. Earl Perry was clerk of the works. Four classrooms were built into the basement space with a kitchen in one of them. A committee of 4 Friends provided oversight of the project: Byron, Larry, Bob Atkinson, and Arnold Todd. Tom Waring built the cabinets. Bathrooms and a library were added to the east side of the Meeting House. The privy, to the right of the right front door, was dismantled. Next to the kitchen, down below, Friends installed a furnace, so the woodstove was removed. With the stove went the wood-box between the 2 front doors.

Doylestown Friends moved to Plumstead Meeting House on 24 April 1955 and didn't worship again in our Meeting House until 7 November. Toward the end of renovations, September & October, every Saturday was a Meeting Workday. On 15 January 1956 Doylestown Friends invited “contributors and neighbors” to an open house. Henry J. Cadbury, former New Testament professor at Harvard, spoke.

-Rick Howe

### **Food Pantry**

The food pantry thanks us for our contributions. We asked for more suggestions of what they need or would like. They suggested some cake mixes. The kids like to make brownies, etc. Also, they could use beans (not baked beans), but most other kinds of beans, canned or dried. Please continue to drop off items at the Meeting House. We will deliver every couple of weeks.

### **Memorial Minute for Elizabeth (Betty) Lamson Todd**

Elizabeth (Betty) Lamson Todd was born in Hinckley, Minnesota on August 4, 1910. She is the oldest daughter of William and Charlotte Lamson and the sister of Harriet and Jean Lamson.

Betty graduated cum laude from Radcliffe College in June 1928, where she majored in government and sang in the Choral Society. She earned a Masters Degree in Public Administration at the University of Minnesota in 1934.

In 1940, Betty married Arthur McHenry, who was an attorney for the California Legislative Counsel and, later, the Attorney General of the State of California.

Her career included work for the State of Minnesota; the Minnesota State League of Women Voters; Secretary for the California League of Women Voters and the State of California Personnel Board. When her husband Arthur died, she moved to Washington, D.C. to work as a consultant to states on Civil Service Administration through the Social Security Regional Office. Her job expanded to include grants for the Labor Department, Children's Bureau and Public Health Service under the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

On May 12, 1951, Betty married Arnold Todd and moved to his home in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She worked for the United States Civil Service Commission Regional Office in Philadelphia through July of 1963, when she resigned to join her husband in retirement.

Betty Todd was a beloved member of Doylestown Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Throughout her years of membership she served on many committees and also held a strong role as rotating hostess for the Friends group of retired men group, known as the Brown Baggers. Her ministry in meetings for

worship was appreciated and her Inner Light shown in all that she did for the meeting community and in how she shared her spirit with all generations within the meeting and in outside activities. Her nurture and concern for her acquired family, the Todd relations, as well as for meeting members, demonstrated her strong belief in living in accordance with Quaker testimony. For all that she did and was, she was loved and respected by those who were touched by her generous spirit.

After the death of Arnold Todd in 1990, Betty moved to Friends Village and then to Pennswood Village in Newtown, Pennsylvania. Her departure from Doylestown, where the Todds were well known beyond the Quaker community, left an empty space on her usual bench, but the influence of her spirit remains with those of us who knew Betty Todd at Doylestown Friends Meeting.

Fondly submitted,  
Maris C. Langford

### **2010 Women's Retreat**

May 14 and 15, Ocean Grove, NJ  
Interested in getting to know the women of DFM better? This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with them and yourself over a relaxing weekend at the Shore. There will be some group activities (meals, Saturday morning activity and MFW) and lots of free time to unwind, walk the beach, browse in town, or just swing on the porch. Rates are the same as last year (\$100 for a double room, including meals, for 2 nights, \$175 for a single). Your commitment in the form of a \$50 deposit is requested by April 1. Scholarship money is available. Please contact:  
Wendy Steginsky: 215-489-9640,  
email: wendydoylestown@aol.com  
or mail checks to: 301 Dorset Ct.  
Doylestown, PA 18901.

### **Camp Onas Spring Retreat Save the Date – April 16 to 18**

Please join us for a relaxing weekend at Camp Onas. If you've never been, look forward to ping pong and fooze ball, basketball in the barn, the donkeys and the pig, the rope swing and the creek, or just time to walk, read, and relax. It's a wonderful weekend away from your routine, and great chance to get to know each other a little better. Woody Carter, Lisa Streetsmith and Leslie Richards are working on a program for kids and adults - to be announced. The accommodations are in bunk bed style rooms with a shared bath. Good showers and plenty of hot water.

We arrive on Friday evening and stay through Sunday afternoon. Come for the whole weekend or a part of it.

Full weekend rate:  
\$50/adult, \$30/child max \$130/family  
Saturday Only: \$20/adult, \$15/child  
Food included. Children under 6 free.  
Ropes Course for children and adults:  
\$15 each (children must meet the age requirement)

To register contact:

Leslie Richards:  
leslieandmatthias2@yahoo.com  
215-345-10454

Lisa Streetsmith:  
lisa@hypericumwellness.com  
215-997-0428

## **DOYLESTOWN FRIENDS MEETING**

### Minutes

Meeting for Worship for Business, February 14, 2010

Clerk Betsy Eschallier opened the meeting with a few moments of silent workshop.

There were thirteen Friends in attendance. MfWfB approved the January 2009 minutes. The second query was read.

### **Doylestown Monthly Meeting Business:**

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Wally Evans reported that we had an unremarkable month, with some nice contributions and only 3 expenses. We are showing about \$1300.00 more income this year than we showed last year at the same time; we are not where we should be but better than we were last year. We received a \$2000.00 contribution to the Educational Assistance Fund, two contributions to the Growth Fund totaling \$2800.00. If we can keep expenses down and keep contributions up we will be in really good shape.

#### **Ad Hoc Committee to Determine Changes to Restricted Growth Fund**

Liz Fritch reported that she, Wally Evans and Betsy Eschallier met to look at the Restricted Growth Fund. The committee proposed some ideas (not recommendations) about how the meeting might use this fund in a way that could attract additional donations and strengthen the meeting. They would like Finance Committee to look at how you might take this fund and create two funds, an endowment fund with guidelines, (how could money be used and under what circumstances, etc.) and capital fund, and then ask members that in addition to regular contributions, would they contribute to one of those other funds. We might try to do some planned-giving fundraising around the endowment. This is a way to ensure that the meeting is here in the future by generating income. Only two people gave to growth fund; we need to define the fund better so people know what they are giving to. Liz asked for feedback from the meeting.

Friends noted that the idea of an endowment is a good one, but it is hard to fundraise around a fund that is not well defined. People generally associate the Growth Fund with the expansion of the meeting. We should talk about what has been done with the money; things that need to be done now; and how that money could be utilized. This might increase donations.

The clerk recommended the following actions: Property committee should look ahead and give an estimate of what we might need to keep in such a fund. Permission to change the purpose of the fund should be obtained from those who donated to the fund. A plan of investment should be developed.

#### **Property Committee**

Mike Barba reported that at some point in the past, a design for an overhand over the basement door was developed. It was set aside due to budgetary concerns. He would like to revisit this idea.

#### **Pastoral Concerns Committee**

Alan Stifleman reported that during MfWfB last month it was reported that David and Annie Hall had requested membership. The report indicated that their children were not included in the application for membership, but that was an error. The Halls would like their children added to their application for membership. A Clearness Committee visited and recommended we approve their request. Meeting approved the membership of all the Hall family. A Welcoming Committee was assigned.

## **Education and Conference Committee**

Betsy Eschallier reported that two families received awards for their children to attend Quaker schools. The committee felt that the Betty Todd bequest was too small to start an endowment, so the money was put in general use. They asked that the budget be replenished at the same rate even though the additional \$2000.00 was there. Meeting approved.

## **Nominating committee**

Meeting approved the following nominations:

Stewardship - Allan Stifelemn

Hospitality - Joan Faulkner

## **Historian**

Rick Howe came before meeting with two requests. He was looking for permission to disassemble the contents of several scrapbooks; he would place the contents (ordered in the same way) into boxes with the ultimate goal of scanning everything onto a CD. The earliest books are beginning to fall apart.

Friends noted that before anything was done, a plan should be in place for how the documents will be reassembled. Would they go back into a binder or would they be in some digital format? Should the originals go to Swarthmore for preservation? Rick Howe, Mike Barba and Wally Evans will look into different ways to preserve historical documents and report back.

Rick then asked for permission to take photos from a scrapbook that was damaged in the fire of 1980 and replace them in a book with plastic sleeves. Meeting approved.

## **Memorial Minute for Elizabeth Todd**

Betsy Eschallier read a memorial minute for Elizabeth Todd written by Maris Langford. The meeting expressed appreciation to Maris for the minute, which was beautifully written, and suggested that a sentence be added about the loving relationship between Elizabeth and the Todd children.

## **Other Business**

A friend inquired about any follow through from the recommendations of the energy audit. Property Committee has met but hasn't had a chance to look at the recommendations yet. They are waiting to receive additional bids regarding the lining of the chimney. Property committee will add this to their agenda.

## **Bucks Quarterly Meeting Business**

Stu Bush reported that we are in good shape for BQM. We have a good program and hospitality is in good shape.

## **Yearly Meeting Business**

Wally Evans reported that we need an annual fund representative. If anyone knows of an interested person, please contact Nominating Committee. Jan Hatchard at PYM is great to work with. There are a lot of exciting programs coming out of the development office, like Arts on Arch, and local reps can have a voice in the planning.

Meeting was closed with a few moments of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Tafoya, Recording Clerk

## **Greetings, Friends:**

We are so grateful to continue receiving the newsletter and hearing the news of the Meeting. All is well here, but we miss our Quaker community, having yet to find a spiritual home here.

Dave just returned to school full-time to finish what he thinks will be a degree in Electrical Engineering. Depending on how many credits transfer, he should be done in a year and a half to two years.

I'm now licensed to practice law in Illinois, and slowly building up a solo family law practice. I work in an old wooden building just off the town square and really enjoy being a small-town lawyer (and getting home in time to meet the school bus).

Maggie is in 4th grade now and just wrapping up her first year on the County swim team. She's growing into a confident, funny girl with an opinion on everything. This makes buying clothes for her an adventure, but her spirit is going to serve her well in life.

Frances is in 2nd grade and active in Girl Scouts and 4-H. She loves to read and says she wants to be a scientist. We recently got a kitten, Milo, who has bonded solidly with Frannie.

For those of you who don't know, we returned home to Macomb, Illinois, to live where we grew up and where our mothers still live. The population is about 20,000 here, and we are the county seat for McDonough County, a rural farming county. There is a public university here, and that greatly diversifies the community, which is otherwise quite homogenous in this part of the country. We live four blocks from my mother, and four blocks from Dave's, and we really value our closeness to both our moms and our extended families.

That is not to say we don't miss Doylestown. We have the fondest memories of our Meeting friends, our co-workers, and our community. For me, Meeting became a part of my life at a difficult juncture and I will never forget the sense of peace and community I found there. Frances and Maggie were just asking the other day if we could make the family retreat at Camp Onas this year, and we all really wish we could! We think of you often and hope that 2010 will be good to Doylestown Meeting.

Love,

Alison and Dave Vawter and Maggie and Frances Long

### **Everyone can submit items for the Newsletter**

Send items for the newsletter to the editors, Debra Finnegan-Suler and John Suler (suler@mindspring.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. If you don't receive within a day or two our email indicating that we received your message, something went wrong with email communication. Please resend your item. Items submitted in plain text or very simple text formatting in Word helps us prevent unpredictable problems in how the newsletter will print. Send postal and email address changes, as well as telephone number changes, to the recorder, Ken Miller, at kenm@fgcquaker.org

### **Cut Costs for DFM**

by subscribing to the email version of the newsletter rather than the hardcopy. If you're interested, please indicate that in an email to suler@mindspring.com

### **DOYLESTOWN FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER**

Stu Bush, clerk

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