

MEETING NEWS

September 2007

And now, here is my secret, a very simple secret; it is only with the heart that one can see properly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Meeting for Worship and First-Day School

Middletown Preparative Meeting, 10:30 A.M. meeting for worship on Sunday and Thursday

	Media Meeting	Providence Meeting
Singing	9:30 A.M.*	At Media Meeting
First-Day School for Adults	9:50 A.M.*	At Media Meeting
First-Day School for Children (up to age 12)	9:50 A.M.*	11:20 A.M. (Children and teachers will leave meeting for worship quietly to go to their classes.)
First-Day School for Teens (ages 13-19)	9:50 A.M.* (and see "Note" below)**	See "Note" below.**
Meeting for Worship (childcare provided)	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.

*Except for September 9 and October 7, when business meeting will be held. On those two dates at **Media Meeting**, there will be no singing. **First-Day school** will begin at 11:00 A.M. and will be held during meeting for worship.

**Note: Young Friends (ages 13-19) from both Media and Providence Meetings have a joint meeting monthly, often on Saturday afternoons, to plan group activities. Info: Joyce Malamut (610.891.1294) joyceandrick18@msn.com

Friends are invited to join **Media-Providence Friends School (MPFS)** students at meeting for worship at 8:40 A.M. on Mondays.

Quaker Leadership Workshop at Providence Meeting by Parker Snowe

On July 24, Providence Meeting's Nominating Committee sponsored the second of two workshops in its series on Quaker leadership. The series was designed for both committee clerks and those simply serving on committees. The workshops, led by Bruce Haines of Providence Meeting, were intended to give members of both Providence and Media Meetings the chance to explore the meaning of Friendly leadership in both theory and

practice. The first workshop, held in June, focused on the beliefs and assumptions that inform the way Friends make decisions. Using material drawn from clerking workshops developed by Arthur Larrabee, the new General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM), Bruce led the group in a discussion of the theory behind Quaker decision-making. In the second workshop, the group read various practical scenarios that might

arise during meeting for business and then discussed how they might respond. Attendees were universal in their praise for the workshops and thankful for Bruce's leadership.

One scenario discussed by the group of approximately 15 participants is published below.

You notice that Laurie's not speaking even though you know that she has something to say. There's a lot of momentum for going forward with the proposal, everybody's saying "I approve," or ready to say it, but you know that what shy Laurie might have to say will have an impact on the outcome. There is a great clamor for going forward, many are saying, "I approve," but you sense that there's something more that needs to happen.

What might you do?

Media-Providence Friends School

by Janice Peterson

On June 6, 2007, Media-Providence Friends School (MPFS) held its 8th grade graduation. Family and friends of the Class of 2007 gathered for a ceremony centered around a traditional Quaker meeting for worship. In speeches they prepared, each graduate recounted memories, reflected upon lessons learned, honored teachers, and conveyed enthusiasm for the future. Next fall, MPFS graduates will begin their high school careers at Agnes Irwin, Friends Central, Springside School, Wilmington Friends School, Akiba Academy, Crefeld School, Strath Haven, Penncrest and Collège du Léman in Switzerland.

Also in June, as the culmination of their study of ancient Greece, MPFS 3rd graders performed the Greek story "Damon and Pythias." Performed as "theater in the round", the legend about friendship, trust and loyalty was set in the 4th century BCE during the rule of tyrant Dionysius I of Syracuse.

Not to be outdone, the 1st graders combined learning about ancient Greece and conflict resolution with their recent production of "Pandora's Box, A First Grade Musical About Conflict Resolution," an original play written by their teacher, Liz Corson. Set at various times in a Friends school classroom in Media, Mount Olympus and Ancient Athens, the play presented a creative twist on the story of Pandora's Box. On the MPFS stage, Pandora's Box unleashed fighting, anger, bullying, teasing and jealousy, causing ancient Athenians all sorts of woes. Fortunately, the Box also contained the gift of Conflict Resolution to help the Athenians resolve their disputes peacefully. By the play's conclusion, even the vengeful god Zeus was singing the praises of conflict resolution! At Media-Providence Friends School, conflict resolution is woven within the curriculum of every subject and is also taught discreetly in

Guidance and Quakerism/Comparative Religions coursework in each grade. By the time of graduation, MPFS students have had more than 430 hours of explicit conflict resolution instruction.

Personals

Susannah Henderson and her husband, **Ryan Duane**, welcomed their first child into the world on June 28, 2007 at 1:19 A.M. His name is **Zachary Raymond Dunne** and he was 21 inches and 7 lbs, 14 ounces at birth. He is now about six weeks old and at the moment, his grandmother (Susannah's mom), **Barbara Caldwell**, is reading him a book!

Donna Allen writes that "Even though life's been difficult since my return . . . I travelled to Ireland with my three older sisters in June. We visited Dublin, and I even found the Quaker Meeting House. We went south from there to Wicklow, Wexford, and Waterford. We visited many historical castles and abbeys. Also peeked in on the Book of Kells at Trinity College in Dublin and the National Heritage Park. B&Bs were our nightly accommodations. From driving on those crazy roads and streets, to getting a flat tire after hours—it was a great trip.

Mary, Medard, Tobias and Zoe Gabel returned from a recent visit to Connecticut and former Providence Meeting members, **Susan Sayer, Jeff Crewe and their son, Daniel**. Daniel is thriving, Jeff is enjoying his work at Mystic Seaport and Susan is doing well. The Sayer-Crewe family send their love to everyone in Media.

Bill Belanger has devoted most of the summer to building a stone wall in front of his house. [He sent in a picture, included in the newsletter, which, as you can imagine made the editor very jealous indeed. And, when the editor asked, Bill replied that he has indeed done kitchens!] With the arrival of August, Bill is beginning his work as national coordinator of the Swarthmore College Extern Program, which places students in the workplace of alumni for a week during the January break. He is also working on a photo layout of pictures he's taken on campus for the Alumni Bulletin. Bill mentioned that since "there have been a few nice sailing days on the Chesapeake, . . . I've done some sailing. **John Dutton** was in a boating safety course with me last spring."

Bill's son, **Paul**, is enjoying his new home in the Buffalo, New York area. He has two boys. Bill's daughter works for the Philadelphia City Planning Commission and lives in Roxborough with her husband and daughter. Now that she has a house to fix up, all she wants for Christmas and birthdays is tools. She got an air compressor and power nailer for her birthday last spring. She loves them! Bill's wife, **Eileen**, is playing tennis when she can, and teaching tax preparation for

H&R Block.

In early July, nearly 1,500 Friends came together to build a joyful community of Friends in River Falls, Wisconsin. Thanks to the hard work of many (especially Providence Meeting member, **Traci Hjelt Sullivan, who is the Conference Coordinator**), participants were blessed with thoughtful, spirited plenaries, exciting workshops, and plentiful opportunities for fellowship and sharing of ideas. Good friends reunited and new friendships were forged. Traci and husband, **Walter Sullivan**, just sent their eldest daughter, **Rebecca**, off for her first year at Guilford College.

Congratulations to **Sam Lemon** who just received his Ed.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Sam's area of focus was education, culture and society. His dissertation was on "The Construction of Ethnoracial Identity within Situational Contexts: A Study of Triracial Family Histories."

Kim Auger and **Sean Crane** wrote to tell us that while they have been absent from Providence Meeting for almost eight months, they have been using their Sundays as an opportunity to view the state of Quakerism in general by visiting many different meetings. When Sean returns home, he writes about each meeting and reflects on what he's observed and integrates that learning into a global view of East Coast Orthodox Quakerism. He and Kim have visited meetings in North Carolina, New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania, and plan to visit others in Maryland, Massachusetts and Vermont this fall.

In February, Sean and Kim bought 16 West Fourth Street in Media. It is a 1926 twin house that was converted into a duplex in the 1950's. They are gutting the entire house and starting over with green design and LEEDS standards (see USGBC.org) guiding their process. In May, as masonry and structural work began, Kim completed college courses at Rowan University and sat for her certification for teaching theater in the state of New Jersey. She passed and is now certified in Art and Theater. July was rather bittersweet for the pair for while Kim accepted a maternity fill-in position at Maple Shade High School, Sean's 16-year-old nephew died after falling in a mine shaft while on a community service project in Mexico. "We miss the folks at Meeting, but have used the year to, literally, find and make ourselves a home, visit other Quaker Meetings, and move Kim from being a student to being a teacher. We hope everyone at meeting is doing well. From time to time we see folks from the meeting and say hi."

Notices

• **Saturday, September 15, 2007—Environmental Stewardship Festival** at Willistown Meeting from 11:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M. Rides, fun activities, and informative talks. Info: 610.644.9084.

• **Friends General Conference invites you to the public Open House of their newly and substantially renovated space on Wednesday, September 19, 2007 from 4:00–6:00 P.M.** Come share in the excitement! Enjoy refreshments while spending time with staff and touring the new FGC office.

• **Saturday, September 29, 2007—8th Annual Buckingham Peace Fair** from 11:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.. featuring events and activities for the whole family. The theme is "peace in the home, the community, the environment and the world." The fair is held on the grounds of Buckingham Friends Meeting and Friends School, at the intersection of Routes 263 and 202, near Peddler's Village, Lahaska, PA. Free admission; rain or shine. Info: 215.750.7220, peacevoice@enter.net, or www.quakerpeacefair.org.

• **Saturday—Saturday, October 13–20, 2007—William Penn's Welcome Week** at the Arch Street Meeting House and other Old City locations. Info: Nancy Gibbs, 215.413.1804 or nancy@pym.org.



Noelle and Sam Lemon celebrate his graduation from University of Pennsylvania with his doctorate in education.

Media-Providence Friends Meetings

125 West Third Street
Media, PA 19063-2498



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Newsletter Submissions Due the 11th

Our next news deadline is September 11.

Media News:

TBD. In the interim, please send all Media news to Leslie Friedman (610.565.4542) leslie_a_friedman@yahoo.com

Providence News:

Leslie Friedman (610.565.4542) leslie_a_friedman@yahoo.com

Check the complete Online Calendars at

Check the complete Providence Meeting calendar at:

www.calendar.yahoo.com/providencemeeting

Check the complete Media Meeting calendar at:

www.mediafriendsmeeting.org

Check PYM's calendar of events at:

www.pym.org/pm/cal.php

Also check out the PeaceWay Website

Providence Meeting's PeaceWay: www.peaceway.net

Media Monthly Meeting

125 West Third Street
Media, PA 19063-2468
610.566.5657
www.mediafriendsmeeting.org

Middletown Preparative Meeting

c/o Jared Darlington
643 Darlington Road
Media, PA 19063-5605
610.558.4348

Providence Monthly Meeting

105 North Providence Road
Media, PA 19063-3595
610.566.1308
www.providencemeeting.org



Bill Belanger's handiwork. See the "Personals."



Mary Simon and Bruce Haines at the Quaker Leadership Workshop.