

Agate Passage Friends Meeting for Business
August 12, 2007

Attending: Judy Brown, Lucy Johnson, Bob Major, Paul Larson, Millie Royce, Bob Royce, Ed Sheridan, Jan Pritchard Cohen, Lisa Down, Beverly West. Peter Damento, Patty Damento

Opening: Query from the Pacific Northwest Yearly Meeting – Quote on *Equality*, which was reflected on in a moment of silence,

Minutes: the minutes from August 7th meeting were distributed but not yet approved. Old business notes available on website.

Treasurer's Report: not available at this time.

Concerns and Announcements:

- ❖ Kristen Carle's letter from Iraq was circulated and discussed. Suggestions about what items that could be included in the next package were discussed.
- ❖ Howard Briton booklet Guide to Quaker Practice is being reviewed by members of the Committee on Ministry and Counsel. Friends and attenders voiced interest in obtaining a copy of booklet.
- ❖ Ground Zero; continuing support was discussed.
- ❖ An attender has asked for 'support' from a member of the Meeting. An offer of spiritual support in form of a meeting for worship consisting of 3-4 members at his home will be made.
- ❖ Should there be a system in place to let members know if a Friend is ill or in hospital? No conclusion.
- ❖ New directory available soon.

Ministry and Counsel Meeting Report:

- ❖ Jan Pritchard Cohen will be joining the committee.
- ❖ The September 9th Meeting will introduce an exercise to facilitate new and old members to connect. This exercise will start 30 minutes after start of meeting. More information will be providing on the day of meeting.
- ❖ Guild to Quaker Practice is being read and reviewed.
- ❖ Worship sharing and the presenting of a query at the start of Meeting for Worship were discussed. Judy Brown outlined proposal, which suggested that a written query be placed on the chairs prior to Meeting for Worship. Friends could speak about the query during the silence. Ministry and Counsel would lead a 20-minute discussion of the query after meeting. Consensus that further discussion and comments from members was needed. Concern about not giving up of silence was voiced.
- ❖ Next meeting September 6, 2007 (second Wednesday of the month).

Next Business Meeting: September 16 th.

The Meeting for Business for Worship closed at 1:00 with a brief moment of silence.

**Agate Passage Friends Meeting
For Business November 18, 2007**

Attending: Judy Brown, Lisa Down, Lucy Johnson, Jim and Dorothy Rona-Meadows, Michael Moore, Ed and Diana Sheridan, Diane Carle, Norman Keegel, Kathryn Keve, Carol Corbus, Barbara Morrison, Beverly West, Peter and Patty Damento.

Opening: Judy Brown read a query from *Faith and Practice* followed by a period of silence and contemplation. Comments and discussion followed.

Do we keep our lives uncluttered with things and activities, and avoid commitments beyond our strength and light? Is the life of our Meeting so ordered that it helps us simplify our personal lives? Do we order our individual lives so as to nourish our spiritual growth?

Minutes: The minutes from the October 21 Meeting for Business were approved with the following corrections. *Brinton's Guide to Quaker Practice* is available for \$ 3.50 not \$3.75. The correct spelling is Jan Prichard Cohen.

Peace and Social Concerns:

- ❖ Craig Jacobson's son Toby is exploring the process for registering for Selective Service as unconstitutional.
- ❖ They are meeting with lawyers from Washington D.C. and hope to create a non-profit group which will be in need of contributions for the legal defense.
- ❖ Friends can contribute through the Meeting by signifying C.O (conscientious objector) on the check.

Ministry and Counsel:

- ❖ Peter Damento presented a brief outline from their last meeting in regards to speaking out during Silent Worship. This was in direct response to a situation that arose several weeks ago during Silent Worship.
- ❖ Remembering to allow time for reflection between statements made during Silent Worship.
- ❖ Statements during Silent Worship are a gift.
- ❖ Time to bring up issues for debate can be brought up at the rise of Meeting
- ❖ Friends should feel empowered to ask for silence should they arise during the Silent Worship.
- ❖ Speaking out of the silence in Worship will be revisited during January discussion sessions of *Brinton's Guide to Quaker Practice*.
- ❖ *Guide to Quaker Practice*
 1. January 25th at 6pm at the Damento's home. "How I Settle Down in Meeting". Lucy Johnson will be moderator.
 2. February 8th at 6pm "Meeting for Worship" (pages 15-32). Peter Damento will be moderator.

3. February 22nd at 6pm "Structure and Meeting for Business" (pages 33-37 and 37-54). Ed Sheridan will be moderator.
4. March 7th at 6pm "Ministry of Teaching and Social Testimonies" (pages 54-70). Lisa Down and Michael Moore will be moderators.

Announcements:

- ❖ Peace for Earth Walk
Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox are walking from Vancouver B.C to San Diego. They are scheduled to deliver a presentation on December 9th at Seabold Hall following Meeting for Worship. Discussion was held to determine if Friends would like to organize a potluck after the presentation. Location yet to be Determined. Also Friends are welcome to join the walk. Possibly from Seabold to Winslow. No definite plans have been made.
- ❖ Children's and Intergenerational Program
Lisa Down met with Ministry and Counsel to discuss ongoing concerns regarding the Children's Program. Would like the Meeting to consider that children be welcome at every Sunday Meeting. Consider developing a roster of volunteers for when children do attend Meeting. Specific programs for children would still Occur every 4th Sunday and intergenerational meetings would still be scheduled at specific times of the year.
- ❖ Faith Laird is undergoing chemotherapy at Children's Hospital in Seattle. She is staying at the Ronald McDonald House near Children's as well as retuning to the island for brief periods of time. Cards would be welcome. Contact Lisa Down for the address. Visitors are also a possibility but need to check with Anne (Mother) first. Please keep this young person in the Light.
- ❖ Harry Carle will be having surgery. Please keep him the Light.

Treasurer's Report:

- ❖ We are behind expected contributions for this time of the year.
- ❖ We are also spending less than last year.
- ❖ Rental rate for Seabold Hall will increase in December.
- ❖ Treasurer will notify Friend's the amount they have contributed for the year.
- ❖ Contributions to Quaker Earth Care Witness will continue. Pickett Fund might not be renewed.

Looking Ahead:

- ❖ December 2nd Meeting for Worship will be from 0930-1030 in order to accommodate the Studio Tour.
- ❖ December 9th will be the presentation by Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox with pot luck to follow. Details to be determine
- ❖ December 23rd will the Christmas program and potluck

- ❖ January 25th will be the first discussion session of *Brinton's Guide to Quaker Practice*. The session will be held at the Damento residence and will include a potluck.
- ❖ There will be no monthly Meeting for Business in December.

The Meeting concluded at 1:30 pm followed by a brief period of silence.

Patricia Damento Recording Clerk.

Agate Passage Friends Monthly Meeting
January 20, 2008

Attending: Judy Brown, Jan Prichard Cohen, Ed Sheridan, Michael Moore, Eric Hoyte, Virginia Hoyte, Kathryn Keve, Jim Rana Meadows, Dorothy Rana Meadows, Diane Carle, Beverly West, Rodger Dean, Craig Jacobson, Peter Damento, Patty Damento

Opening: Judy Brown read a query from *Faith and Practice* having to do with the testimony on Simplicity. Comments and discussion regarding the query followed after a short period of silence and contemplation.

Are our lives so filled by the Spirit that we are free of need to indulge in the addictive use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs, or excesses of any kind? Do we choose recreation, which strengthen our physical, mental, and spiritual lives and avoid those, which may prove harmful to ourselves and others?

Minutes: The Minutes from the November 18, 2007 Monthly Meeting were approved following several corrections.

Announcements:

- ◆ Exploring changing the Meeting in December, which is in conflict with the Artist Studio Tour.

Treasurer's Report:

- ◆ Budget total/current \$4411.00
- ◆ Expenditure's \$2697.53
- ◆ Reserve \$741.00
- ◆ Exploring idea of library clerk
- ◆ New category: contributions made in the honor of or memory of another person

Ministry and Counsel:

- ◆ Exploring the idea to limit the Attender email list for Meeting related business and news and forming 2nd email list for Members and Attenders who want to receive general information of interest. Signing up for the 2nd mail list would be voluntary.

- ◆ M & C would like to set up a study group to discuss the undergoing revisions to NPYM *Faith and Practice*. This would be the time to be able to participate in a change to the current *Faith and Practice*.

Peace and Social Concern:

- ◆ Next meeting February 10th. Will discuss alternatives to violence.

Meeting concluded at 1:00 following a brief period of silence. Next Monthly Meeting will be on February 17th 2008 following Meeting for Worship.

Agate Passage Friends Monthly Meeting
February 17, 2008

Attending: Lucy Johnson, Bob Major, Dorothy Rana Meadows, Jim Rana Meadows, Virginia Hoyte, Eric Hoyte, Jan Prichard Cohen, Diane Carle, Judy Brown, Michael Moore, Ed Sheridan, Patty Damento.

Opening: A query was read from *Faith and Practice*. Comments and discussion regarding the query followed after a short period of silence and contemplation.

Do we meet in expectant waiting for the promptings of the Divine Spirit? Is there a living silence in which we are drawn together by the power of God in our midst? Is this inspiration carried over into our daily living.

Minutes: The Minutes from January 20, 2008 Monthly Meeting were approved.

Announcements:

- ◆ Mid week Meeting for Worship to continue. Jan Prichard Cohen will host the mid week Meeting for Worship for the month of March on Wednesday's from 1:30-2:30. Discussion for future Meeting times and day to be flexible and open for discussion.
- ◆ Quaker Chat List: is the new e-mail list working? Everyone on the Attender List is on the Quaker Chat List. You can remove your name from the Chat List.
- ◆ Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County has sent letter of appreciation. The Center is focused on conflict resolution through training with an interest in providing these techniques to middle schools. Should we add this organization to our budget for possible donations? Ed Sheridan will speak to the committee members of Peace and Social Concerns.
- ◆ Dept of Veteran Affairs has opened a Resource Service Center for Veterans at the Veteran's Home in Ritzel.
- ◆ University and Eastside Meeting have issued an invitation to a special meeting in order to select a representative to serve on the Church Council of Greater Seattle. After a brief discussion, it was decided not to participate but to continue our relationship with the Interfaith Council of Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap County.
- ◆ The Meeting would like to honor Millie's memory by contributing to

the cost of planting a tree in the Bainbridge Island park where her ashes will be buried. The cost will be approximately \$75 and will come out of the General Budget.

Ministry and Counsel

- ◆ A new application for membership has been received. Jan Prichard Cohen has applied for membership. She will receive a in home visitation from two committee members from Ministry and Counsel. Action regarding the application will be taken during the April Monthly Meeting.
- ◆ *Faith and Practice* is undergoing a revision and will be up for adoption during the Pacific Northwest July Yearly Meeting. Debbie Townsend from The Discipline Committee has been invited to join the next Study Group to discuss the new draft.
- ◆ How are the study groups going? A brief discussion was held in regards to the study groups in which *Brinton's Guide to Quaker Practice* is being addressed. It was concluded that these study groups were "rich in conversation", "thrilling", and "great deal of wisdom".

Treasurer's Report:

- ◆ Budget total/current \$4411.00
- ◆ Expenditures \$104.19
- ◆ Reserves \$448.00

The Meeting concluded at 1:00 pm following a brief period of silence. The next Monthly Meeting will be held on March 15, 2008 following the Weekly Meeting for Worship.

Patricia Damento, Recording Clerk

Agate Passage Friends Monthly Meeting March 16, 2008

Attending: Judy Brown, Diane Carle, Michael Moore, Diane Sheridan, Ed Sheridan, Wendy McClure, Kathryn Keve, Eric Hoyte, Virginia Hoyte, Jim Rana Meadows, Dorothy Rana Meadows, Bob Royce, Lorena Bruff, Jan Prichard Cohen, Karla Zimmerman, Patty Damento, Lucy Johnson

Opening: The March Query centered on our monthly meeting for business. A discussion followed the reading and was closed with a short period of silence and contemplation.

How well do our Meetings for Business lead to a corporate search for and revelation of God's truth?

Minute's: The minutes from February 17, 2008 were approved following several corrections.

Announcements:

- ◆ Gentle reminder that Friends to share in the cleanup and closing of Seabold Hall.
- ◆ Dorothy and Jim Rana Meadows will host the mid week Meeting for Worship on Wednesdays at 7 pm for the month of April.
- ◆ A tree has been planted in Millie's memory at the small county park near the Bloedale Reserve.
- ◆ Easter celebration for next week to include a flower exchange, Easter oriented food for the food offering following Worship and food drive to benefit Helpline.

Financial Report:

- ◆ NPYM Dues \$240 to be paid in April
- ◆ Budget for 2008 approved

Ministry and Counsel:

- ◆ Jan Prichard Cohen's application for membership has been approved. The Welcoming Committee is planning a welcoming and celebration meal. Tentative date would be May 1st at the Sheridan's home.
- ◆ Forms to indicate final wishes and requests for a Memorial Meeting are available from Michael Moore. The forms will be kept in the safety deposit box.
- ◆ Ministry and Counsel to revisit the issue of Intergenerational Meetings and if there is an interest in alternatives time for the Monthly Meeting.

Nominating Committee:

- ◆ Last years unusual structure for Clerkship evolved from the reluctance of a member to step up for position Clerk. Over the last year, three members have shared in the responsibilities of clerking the Meeting for Worship and facilitating

the Monthly Meeting for Business. The Nominating Committee will look into a mid term adjustment in replacing one of the three members.

The Monthly Meeting concluded at 1pm following brief period of silence. The next Monthly Meeting will be held on April 20, 2008.

Patricia Damento, Recording Clerk

Agate Passage Friends Monthly Meeting
April 20, 2008

Attending: Virginia Hoyte, Roger Dean, Michelle Dean, Beverly West, Diane Carle, Ed Sheridan, Diana Sheridan, Jan Prichard Cohen, Michael Moore, Barbara Wolf, Lucy Johnson, Karla Zimmerman, Dorothy Rana Meadows, Jim Rana Meadows, Leyla Welkin, Patty Damento, Peter Damento

Opening: Ed Sheridan opened the Meeting with a brief period of silence.

Minutes: the minutes from the March 16, 2008 Monthly Meeting were passed and approved pending several corrections.

Treasurer's Report:

- ◆ Education Fund has been set up in honor of Millie Royce
- ◆ Detailed financial report was distributed by Michael Moore

Announcements:

- ◆ Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox will be completing their Earth Walk for Peace in San Diego. There is a blog/website for those interested in their journey.

Nominating Committee:

- ◆ Ed Sheridan and Craig Jacobrown were approved as Co-Clerks. The commitment is for 1 year.

Ministry and Counsel:

- ◆ What's next? M/C presented the idea of forming a series discussion groups this fall to focus on the Quaker Testimonies. This would be a time to share personal experience that would deepen our understanding of these Testimonies. It was suggested that the discussion groups could meet on Sunday afternoon at someone's home. More information to follow.
- ◆ M/C will prepare Memorial Minutes for Millie and Roberta. This is not an obituary but rather a letter written by the Meeting that describes how a lost Friend has touched the lives of others.
- ◆ Diana Sheridan has submitted an application for membership.

State of the Agate Passage Meeting of the Society of Friends:

Ed Sheridan distributed a letter, which outlines the last year and the "State of the Meeting". The letter was drafted by Judy Brown and also edited by Ed Sheridan. A copy of the letter is also available on our web site. All are invited to review the letter and email or discuss comments and suggestions with Ed Sheridan. The final draft of the letter will be submitted to the Quarterly Meeting in Ellensburg next Friday.

New Business:

- ◆ A suggestion was made to send a note to Kristen Carle and her team. They will be arriving in California in mid May from Iraq. A card will be available to sign at the next Meeting for Worship.
- ◆ A lively discussion ensued about practical solutions to buying food locally. "Sustainable Bainbridge" has a section, which addresses food issues. This led to a discussion about the possibility of developing a co-op on the island. It was decided to revisit the topic at our next Monthly Meeting if interest remained high.
- ◆ Diana Sheridan is now the custodian of the Friends Quilt. The quilt was made by members of the Meeting many years ago and would be sent to the homes of Friends in time of illness to provide comfort. There was a discussion of whether or not to display the quilt during Weekly Meeting for Worship. There was also a suggestion to return the quilt to its original owner. There was no firm conclusion.

The meeting concluded at 12:45 following a brief period of silence. The next Monthly Meeting will be held on May 18, 2008

Recording Clerk
Patty Damento