

The Langley Hill Friend

NINTH Month 2013

6410 Georgetown Pike, McLean, Va. 22101-2210

#503

The first that enters into the place of your meeting ... turn in thy mind to the light, and wait upon God singly, as if none were present but the Lord; and here thou art strong. Then the next that comes in, let them in simplicity of heart sit down and turn in to the same light, and wait in the spirit; and so all the rest coming in, in the fear of the Lord, sit down in pure stillness and silence of all flesh, and wait in the light. Those who are brought to a pure still waiting upon God in the Spirit are come nearer to the Lord than words are; for God is spirit and in the spirit he is worshiped.

Calendar

Recurring Events

- Sundays 9:00 am "Drop-in" Worship Sharing in the upstairs room . *See next page*
- 9:30 am Early worship in the meeting room
- 10 am Meeting for worship (9:30 on business meeting day)
- First Sundays 9:15 Singing ♪♪ 10:00 Worship. 11:00 Fellowship. Noon Potluck Lunch.
- Second Sunday 10:30-12:00 Meeting for worship with a concern for Business
- 2nd Wednesday 7:30-8:30 Mid-Week Worship
- Saturday 12-1 pm Witness on Mall "Seek Peace and Pursue It" (*Contact Bill Mims 703-281-7293*)

Upcoming Events at Langley Hill – and Elsewhere

- 9/22 Sunday 11:00 am: discussion of membership issues, led by Care & Clearness
- 9/29 Sunday 11:00 am: Chuck Kleymeyer on his new book, "Yeshu" (*see page 2*)
- 10/6 Sunday 5:30 - 7:30 One Book discussion: The New Jim Crow (*see ___ for more*)
- 10/12 Saturday 1:00 pm Jim Fussell & Kate English Wedding!
- 10/19 Saturday 10am BYM Interim Meeting, Hopewell Center Meeting (*see BYM calendar, online*)
- 10/20 Sunday 11:00 am: Intergenerational Worship Sharing
- 7:00 -8:30 pm Monthly Book Group, Marcus Borg book (*see page 2*)
- 10/26 Saturday 9:00am - 4:00pm Quaker Quest Workshop at Langley Hill
- 10/27 Sunday 11:00 am: discussion of membership issues, led by Care & Clearness
- 11/3 Sunday 5:30 - 7:30 One Book discussion: The New Jim Crow (*see ___ for more*)
- 11/17 Sunday 11:00 am: discussion of membership issues, led by Care & Clearness

To Schedule Second Hours, contact [Jeanne Houghton](mailto:Jeanne.Houghton@langleyhill.org) 703-609-1065
For other uses of Meeting House contact [Virginia Colin](mailto:Virginia.Colin@langleyhill.org) 703-864-2101

Drop-In Topics

Sunday mornings 9 – 10 Upstairs

- 9/29 J. G. Whittier: Two Poems
10/6 Ramakrishna on Religious Unity
10/13 Peace Pilgrim: Steps Toward Inner Peace
10/20 Elias Hicks on Bible Societies
10/27 G. M. Hopkins -- Two Poems

Monthly Reading Group

Sunday evening 7:00 – 8:30 in the Library

During the coming year we will read one chapter each month from Marcus Borg's book –

"The Heart of Christianity"

- 9/22 Preface and Chapter One: A Time of Change
10/20 Chapter Two: Faith, the Way of the Heart

Books are available from Steve Morse for \$10.
There is also a Kindle version.



Second Hour September 29

Yeshu: A Novel for the Open-Hearted

Chuck Kleymeyer's new novel is a lyrical retelling of the New Testament saga known by some as "the greatest story ever told." The book invites its readers in to join a storytelling carpenter called Yeshu, his young neighbors Daavi and Shoshana, and a band of fellow seekers on a journey brimming with lessons, laughter, and beauty, that forever alters their lives, and still impacts ours. On the way, Shoshana goes missing and Daavi searches for her, but also for his own soul.

The tale Daavi shares was written for readers of all ages and spiritual backgrounds — by Charles David Kleymeyer, an established writer, culture and development sociologist, performing storyteller, and Quaker activist. For five decades he has worked and often lived with ethnic peoples of the Americas, joining their struggles to improve their lives, revitalize their cultures, and restore the earth. Most of that time, he was also imagining Yeshu. — from Goodreads

Chuck will be signing his book during Second Hour.
Copies will be available to purchase.



Worship is our response to an awareness of God. We can worship alone, but when we join with others in expectant waiting we may discover a deeper sense of God's presence. ~ *Advices and Queries*, The Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain, 2010.

THINKING ABOUT RACE

ONE BOOK – The New Jim Crow is the ONE BOOK that the BYM Working Group on Racism is urging all meetings to read during the coming year. Our Langley Hill working group is planning to meet Sunday evening every 4-6 weeks to discuss 3 chapters each time. Different people will lead each meeting. First meeting is October 6. We urge ALL to COME!

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

Under Jim Crow laws, black Americans were relegated to a subordinate status for decades. Things like literacy tests for voters and laws designed to prevent blacks from serving on juries were commonplace in nearly a dozen Southern states.

In this book, legal scholar Michelle Alexander writes that many of the gains of the civil rights movement have been undermined by the mass incarceration of black Americans in the war on drugs. She says that although Jim Crow laws are now off the books, millions of blacks arrested for minor crimes remain marginalized and disfranchised, trapped by a criminal justice system that has forever branded them as felons and denied them basic rights and opportunities that would allow them to become productive, law-abiding citizens.

"People are swept into the criminal justice system — particularly in poor communities of color — at very early ages ... typically for fairly minor, nonviolent crimes," she tells Fresh Air's Dave Davies. "[The young black males are] shuttled into prisons, branded as criminals and felons, and then when they're released, they're relegated to a permanent second-class status, stripped of the very rights supposedly won in the civil rights movement — like the right to vote, the right to serve on juries, the right to be free of legal discrimination and employment, and access to education and public benefits. Many of the old forms of discrimination that we supposedly left behind during the Jim Crow era are suddenly legal again, once you've been branded a felon."

Michelle Alexander is an associate law professor at The Ohio State University. She clerked for Justice Harry Blackmun on the U.S. Supreme Court and is a graduate of Stanford Law School.

From NPR's January 16, 2012 interview on "Fresh Air"

Does our criminal justice system work?

The bodies of poor, unemployed youths are worth little on the streets but become valuable commodities once they are behind bars.

"People have said to me that the criminal justice system doesn't work," Kerness said [Bonnie Kerness of the American Friends Service Committee]. "I've come to believe exactly the opposite—that it works perfectly, just as slavery did, as a matter of economic and political policy. How is it that a 15-year-old in Newark who the country labels worthless to the economy, who has no hope of getting a job or affording college, can suddenly generate 20,000 to 30,000 dollars a year once trapped in the criminal justice system? The expansion of prisons, parole, probation, the court and police systems has resulted in an enormous bureaucracy which has been a boon to everyone from architects to food vendors—all with one thing in common, a paycheck earned by keeping human beings in cages. The criminalization of poverty is a lucrative business, and we have replaced the social safety net with a dragnet."

Prisons are at once hugely expensive—the country has spent some \$300 billion on them since 1980—and ... hugely profitable. Prisons function in the same way the military-industrial complex functions. The money is public and the profits are private.

From "The Shame of America's Gulag," Chris Hedges, on www.Truthdig.com, March 17, 2013



Highlights from September Business Meeting

Letters Juliet Isele wrote requesting junior membership for her daughter, Bridgit Elise born July 29, 2012. Elise is a junior - very member of the Meeting. Sarah Holliday wrote requesting transfer to Brooklyn Friends Meeting in NYC, and the meeting approved.



Treasurers Report Our fiscal year ended with a surplus of \$10,000: contributions were up and expenses less than expected. Of that amount, \$3,000 went to Meetinghouse Reserves, \$1,000 toward our fall Quaker Quest program, \$500 for AACH scholarships (to send shelter kids to camp), and \$5,701 to general reserves. The full treasurer's report is with this newsletter. More details of the discussion will be in the Business Meeting Minutes.

Care and Clearness The Committee enthusiastically recommended Susan Joyce's membership, which will lie over for approval at the October business meeting. She's been active with Spiritual Formation, is involved with the Racism Working Group and is an active attender. Deborah McCormick's transfer to Herndon Friends Meeting was approved. And we approved Kate English's membership in Langley Hill Meeting. Her welcoming and nurturing committee members are Dona Manoukian, Babs Williams, Carol Brown, Ann Hunt, Chuck Kleymeyer, and Tim Yeane. She and Jim Fussell will be married in a meeting for worship here on Saturday, October 12 – soon!

To pursue their focus on the meaning of membership, several second hours have been scheduled, one on continue to give thought to what

membership means. Several second hours are scheduled: September 22, October 27, and November 17. The Committee's annual report is on the next page.

Ministry and Worship A memorial minute for Abby Hadley was read and is on the next page.

Religious Education So that we all in the meeting will recognize – and appreciate – this year's First Day School teachers here are their names:

Elizabeth Rodas – nursery

Hugo Estrada – first day grades

Dona Manoukian, Lynn Corn – middle school

Anne Delorey – high school

John Smallwood – will work in middle of year on intervisitation

Nicole Bivens Collinson, Ann Kosmal & Susan Joyce – are all “certified Friendly Adult Presences”

The assembly time, 10:30-11:00 is being restructured – or rather unstructured – and perhaps renamed. Any young person can participate. Each week two adults will monitor the unstructured time, one working with the older kids doing whatever they want. Volunteers needed! – or will be recruited.

During November and December the focus will be the Quaker value of community and working on a play to present during the Christmas season.

“Friends, keep your meetings in the power of God, and in his wisdom (by which all things were made) and in the love of God, that by that ye may order all to his glory. And when Friends have finished their business, sit down and continue awhile quietly and wait upon the Lord to feel him. And go not beyond the Power, but keep in the Power by which God Almighty may be felt among you... For the Power of the Lord will work through all, if you follow it.” (Ep. 162, 1658) — Howard H. Brinton, 1952

Care And Clearness Committee Annual Report

(for July 2012 through August 2013)

Introduction

The committee's primary responsibility is to assist the Meeting in being a community of people who love one another and care for one another, both spiritually and practically. The committee arranges for clearness committees, support committees, and marriage committees. It recommends readings and resources for members and attenders. It has compiled an end-of-life packet that is currently being revised and updated. It has reviewed a draft Youth Safety Policy prepared by the RE Committee and the Directors. The committee is available in times of need to listen, to make visits and phone calls, and to refer people to helpful community resources. The committee administers the Family Emergency Fund and may provide material or financial assistance and other personal aid. The committee handles requests for membership in the Meeting and assists the Recorder in maintaining the membership list. All current members of this committee are members of the Meeting. Much of our work consists of confidential support for those in our community coping with spiritual, emotional, and practical problems.

Memberships & Marriage

Membership requests: KC Morris, Greg Chudy, Kate English and Susan Joyce requested membership. Clearness committees were established for all. Recommendations were made to Meeting for the membership for all and these recommendations have been approved or are in process. The committee also acted on membership requests from others which have subsequently been suspended or withdrawn.

Transfers: A request for transfer was received from Deborah F. McCormick for transfer to Herndon Meeting. It will be brought to the Meeting for Business in September.

Losses: Abby Hadley, a founding member of Langley Hill Friends Meeting, died May 22, 2013. Her memorial service was held at Sandy Spring on July 13.

Marriage: Jim Fussell and Kate English requested marriage under care of Meeting. Jim and Kate's marriage was recommended to the Meeting and approved. A wedding committee was established. Another application for marriage was considered and withdrawn. Our process of clearness was deemed helpful to all.

Support: The committee organized support for many members and attenders of the meeting over the course of the year, including the moves of Georgia and Hugh Fuller and Ray Bridge and Maryann Beall.

Membership - Meaning And Procedures

We continue to give much thought to the meaning of membership and our current procedures for applying for membership. We are revising our brochure for people who might be considering membership. We have engaged with Meeting to try to locate our out-of-touch members and are organizing a series of second hours on the Meeting's understanding, intentions and procedures for membership in the fall of 2013.

Committee Life

Tim Yeaney joined the committee as clerk in January 2013. In 2012, members of the committee took turns clerking committee meetings. Committee meetings have been rich in personal sharing, collective discernment and the care we hold for our committee's work and the life our religious community. We have been meeting once or twice a month in the evenings for about two hours and continue to close each meeting with a reflection of what went well and how we can improve. We care deeply for the members of our community and try to be available to each.

Members of the C&C Committee as of August 2013: Timothy Yeaney (Clerk) 703-204-9126 -- Christine de Butts 703.533.1317 -- Suzanne Nicholson 703.533.2180 -- Rebecca Rawls 301-942-7875 -- Paul Slattery 703.356.6670 -- John Smallwood 301.229.8489 -- John Surr 301.469.9710 -- Steve Woodbury 703.425.5943

Abby Atwater Hadley 1911 - 2013



Abby made many contributions in her life with Quakers - Religious Education - Conflict Resolution programs - Death & Dying resources - Peace - Prison Visitation.

In collecting thoughts about Abby, the most remembered aspect of her Quaker life was her activity in Religious Education of our young people:

She was a touchstone and valued resource for the Religious Education Committee, always the go-to person on Quaker curriculum and a tireless worker as teacher and committee member

She wrote *We're Going to Meeting for Worship* to help young children

understand what it means to attend Meeting for Worship and she also helped write *Forging Peace*, a course for 5th & 6th graders

She was very active in and clerked both the Langley Hill Religious Education Committee and the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Religious Education Committee

Abby helped create the *Friends for Creative Conflict Resolution* in the 70s and 80s, leading conflict resolution workshops in schools, churches, and jails

Abby was a mentor to others. She said in a conversation about Quaker beliefs that "You are a seeker after truth - that's what is important - Quakers are seekers

Abby was present wherever she was, truly with the people in the room, having an unusual ability to set aside her own thoughts and feelings and focus on the thoughts and feelings of the person in front of her

It was in 1952 that Abby and Nixon began attending the Friends Meeting of Washington and became members of that meeting. In 1961, Abby was part of a group of Friends living in Northern Virginia who found a small church for sale in McLean VA and thus began the Langley Hill Friends Meeting in 1961. This meeting was her spiritual home until she moved her membership to Sandy Spring Friends Meeting in 1993.

The year after Baltimore Yearly Meeting consolidated in 1968, Abby took on the position of Associate Secretary of Baltimore Yearly Meeting for about a year. Her job was mainly to oversee the programs for young people.

Her talents reached further out into Quakerdom and she became part of the Friends General Conference Central Committee and served on their Religious Education Committee.

Her life was full. When Abby spoke, she minced no words. You knew what she was thinking! She would listen attentively and she would tell you what she thought.

Her interests were many -

She kept her autoharp with with her a great deal of time, sang in chorales, and helped write *Songs of the Spirit* for Friends General Conference

To make Quaker history come alive, she would dress up as Lucretia Mott, an early Quaker

She participated in a working group to produce an end-of-life packet for Friends to use in planning their end of life to make it easier for those left behind. Her children have recently been thankful for this.



In the 50s and 60s, Abby was very much involved in Civil Rights, Social Justice, Peace, and Fellowship House programs.



EYES OPEN IN QUAKER MEETING

*Dear Siddhartha, I cannot
close my eyes to worship, meditate,
pray. God knows I try but He
puts me to sleep. I fall backwards
off benches disrupting the corporate
silence, or sidewise onto my neighbor*

*who wakes me when I snore. Did you
close your own eyes during the years
beneath the fig tree - or did you gaze,
sated and glad, at the sky, at your
brother the goat, at the trembling weed?
This morning in Meeting, Ann speaks.*

*I look at her husband and daughter watching
the words speaking themselves through
her beautiful mouth. When she sits down,
Lily edges closer and touches her arm
as though she had become new. Sunlight
looks through the high green glass behind her*

*and the clear windows on both sides are
singing with winter trees. We are here.*

*If I were blind, I would open wider
all the other eyes of my body to this world.*



Langley Hill Friends Meeting
6410 Georgetown Pike
McLean, Virginia 22101-2210
Address Correction Requested