
NEWSLETTER
October -
November
2001

Agate Passage Friends

Bainbridge Island, Washington

A Quaker Worship Group

Welcome to Meeting for Worship

We welcome you warmly to share with us in seeking the riches of receptive silence.

The silent hour is a time of waiting, of setting aside our usual patterns of thought, our analyzing, our worrying, to wait patiently for a new kind of consciousness. Quakers have traditionally called this 'The Light'. This is not easy to come by, but unspeakably rewarding.

The Light may come as a new insight with regard to oneself, a deep sorrow for mistakes and wrong attitudes, a transformation of those attitudes, a sense of relief, of joy, of thankfulness, new courage to face difficult situations, power to obey the Light.

The Light in Quaker Meeting may lead people to feel they have insights that would help the Meeting. Each individual tries to express this briefly and clearly. After such "vocal ministry," the group should have ample time to sink back into silent waiting before the silence is broken, if at all, during the rest of the Meeting. There is also the ministry of listening, of listening behind the words that are spoken, of holding up those words to the Light, to hear that of God in the speaker.

Out of sitting still in the Light have come the Quaker testimonies for peace, simplicity, equality and community. From these testimonies, Quakers have become actively involved in social concerns such as prison reform, and human rights.

Haiku Moment –

*Silent Friends Meeting:
the sound of chairs being moved
to enlarge the circle.*

-Bob Major

(inspired by Friend Lee Watson)

Meeting for Worship for Business September 16, 2001

PRESENT; Ed and Diana Sheridan, Lee Watson, Bob and Millie Royce, Candace Steele, Ed and Nancy Dodson, Jim and Dorothy Rana-Meadows, Norman Down, Elizabeth Zwick, Anne Rodman, Michael Moore, Deborah Anderson, Terry and Iver Macdougall, Gayle Henry, Lorena Bruff, Judith Brown, Carol Erickson

The meeting was started by the clerk with a quotation from a pamphlet by Thomas S. Brown of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and the query contained in it: *"In what ways can I prepare myself to put aside the heat and tumult of the day's anxieties and to enter into the quietness of our Meeting for Business?"* Following which there were a few moments of silent reflection.

1. The minutes of the July Meeting for business were reviewed and the following corrections made. Michael Moore's name was left off the list of attenders. The three keys to the Meeting Hall are held by Lee Watson, Deborah Anderson, and Michael Moore. Keys to the mailbox for Worship Group are held by Michael Moore and Deborah Anderson. The minutes were approved as corrected.

2. Bob Royce has agreed to edit the newsletter and to be our first Web Clerk. He is in the process of developing the website which will contain basic information about the group and location of meetings. The address of this website is <http://www.quaker.org/agate-passage/index.htm>

3. Treasurer's Report: Nancy Dodson reported that all current bills have been paid and there is an overall total balance in our account of \$1,688.45 as of 9/14/01.

4. Ministry and Oversight committee: Judy Brown, Lisa Down, Bob Major, and Diana Sheridan. Judy Brown presented a revised greeting statement for the group, based on the previous comments and discussion in our last business meeting. With minor revisions, the statement was approved as presented and the final draft will be completed by Judy and included in the website.

A future Worship Group Discussion was proposed on the topic *"By what path have we arrived at the Society of Friends?"*. The members present agreed on the date of October 7th, 10:30 to 1:00, following a shortened Meeting for Worship. Members will be notified by e-mail. Nancy Dodson pointed out that a telephone tree would also be helpful for sharing some types of information. Lee Watson stated that the new directory will be out very soon with phone numbers and e-mail addresses of members and attenders.

5. Discussion of Becoming a Meeting: Following our threshing session on this subject, Judy and Gayle had attended a business meeting at University Friends Meeting. At this meeting the Port Townsend Worship Group, which is also under the guidance of University Friends Meeting, presented their request to become a Preparative Meeting. This is normally the next step toward becoming a Monthly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting is the group which has final approval on formalizing Monthly Meeting status.

The members generally agreed that we were ready to accept the responsibility of becoming a Monthly Meeting as most of the functions of such a group have already been established within our Worship Group. Although the group has waxed and waned over the years since the '70's when first initiated, the present level of attendance and number of members suggests that we are ready for this next step of becoming a Monthly Meeting. The reservations of some centered around a possible loss of intimacy and closeness present in the small group and the possible encumbrance of unwanted obligations to a larger, more institutionalized group.

Those expressing such reservations were willing to go ahead with becoming a Monthly Meeting in the hope that these fears would not prove valid.

Judy proposed writing a letter to the Ministry and Oversight Committee of the University Meeting stating that we already consider ourselves a Preparative Meeting and wish to become a Monthly Meeting. She will attempt to include a sense of the meeting on this subject, including the reservations brought up. She will bring a draft of this letter for the next Meeting for Worship for business in November.

6. The Education Committee of Lee Watson, Norm Down and Elizabeth Zwick will meet in the near future to consider a proactive plan for our children and young attenders.

7. Peace and Social Concerns: Ed Stated that the group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Poulsbohemian Coffee Shop in Poulsbo. The main focus of the group will be on prisons with other topics such as education coming under this umbrella. He and Nancy have volunteered to present within the schools the curriculum Teaching Tolerance which is provided free by the Southern Poverty Law Center. He would like the meeting's informal support for doing this although it will not be presented as coming under the auspices of Friends. He has received very positive responses from those he has approached on this project. The meeting agreed that this appeared to be a worthwhile project.

8. Schedule of Future Meetings:

The first three Sundays of each month we meet at Seabold Meeting Hall

October 7th, 10:30-1:00. Worship Group Discussion on topic: "How did you come to the Society of Friends" following a shortened meeting for worship. Seabold Meeting Hall

October 28th, 10:00. Gayle Henry's house, 6830 Kaleetan, Suquamish Shores, (360) 697-5747.

November 18th, 11:30-1:00, Meeting for Worship for Business, following worship, Seabold Meeting Hall.

November 25th, 10:00, Ed and Diana Sheridan, 9702 Sands Ave. NE, Bainbridge Island, (206) 842-4562.

Lorena Bruff, Recording Clerk
lbruff@earthlink.net

Dear Friends,

In my conversations with Ed Sheridan, Lee Watson, and Lorena Bruff we concluded that the Agate Passage Friends Newsletter should include the meetings schedule, the minutes of the meeting for business, committee reports, and announcements of events and activities of interest to Friends. The newsletter will be mailed to Friends who don't have access to the internet, and copies will be available at First Day meeting.

We also felt that contributions from members, in the form of quotations, brief articles, poetry, and perhaps personal experiences, would add interest and color to this newsletter. So, **please, Friends, give me your contributions**, by telephone (if they're very short), by e-mail or by snail-mail, typed, if possible. Thanks!...

Agate Passage Friends now has its own website. Much of the material in our newsletter will appear in the website, but we need **you** to contribute comments, ideas, announcements and other written material, as well as photos and art. With your help, we can keep the website interesting and up-to-date.

<http://quaker.org/agate-passage/index.htm>

Bob Royce
513 Madrona Way NE
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
(206) 842-8517
bomiki@bainbridge.net

Friends Committee on National Legislation, A brief description and up-date

For fifty years, FCNL has served as a strong lobbying presence in the nation’s capital for issues of peace, justice, and human rights. In FCNL’s center and offices that occupy an historic building across the street from US Senate office buildings, FCNL staff and interns gather detailed facts on world events, current public policy issues, and pending legislation - - and use this information in printed pamphlets and other materials to support Friends’ concerns when they meet with US senators and representatives or their staff.

FCNL offices provide for Friends, as well, publications, pamphlets, newsletters and internet alerts, with weekly up-to-date information on pending legislation. These present issues that Meetings and individuals may take action on, through letter-writing, phone calls, or e-mails to our state congress people.

On October 27, Arthur M. Boyd, Associate Executive Secretary of FCNL, met with a group of Agate Passage Friends at Judy Brown’s home to present the history and work of FCNL and show a video of the Center and it staff at work. He explained the fund-raising campaign now underway that will provide for a restoration and expansion of FCNL’s building and permit the preservation of the building’s facade.

November 8-11, Friends Committee on National Legislation gathered Quakers from across the United States to Washington D.C. for its annual meeting. During the four-day conference, Friends heard speakers and discussed issues, working as a body and in small groups to determine the concerns most vital to Quakers in America.

The following is from a letter written by Joe Volk, Executive Secretary of FCNL to President Bush:

“Dear President Bush,

We urge you to stop the bombing, stand down the US military, feed the hungry, and work diligently through peaceful means to win the heart and minds of the Afghan people and other peoples throughout that region to the cause of justice for the victims of September 11.

We appeal to you to exercise compassion for the people of Afghanistan. Stop the war, end the cycle of violence, and lead the world to a new civil order for the 21st century. Use the solid backing of the international community to bring the perpetrators of the September 11 attacks to justice under the rule of law. Let the guns fall silent so that the world may hear freedom ring... “



The Children of Iraq
310 Riverside Dr. #511
New York, NY 10025
<http://www.thechildrenofiraq.org>

Help The Afghan Children
8133 Leesburg Pike, Suite 310
Vienna, VA 22182, USA
(703) 848-0407 <http://www.htac.org>



HELP THE AFGHAN CHILDREN, INC.
A non-profit organization
..... The Voice of Innocence

Agate Passage Friends Newsletter
c/o Bob Royce
513 Madrona Way NE
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
(206) 842-8517 -- bomiki@bainbridge.net

Meeting location:
14454 Komendal Road
Bainbridge Island, WA
Tel: (206) 855-1797