

Orlando Quaker Meeting

Quaker Commons

Volume 2010, Issue 1

October



Clerk: Bill Carlie

Committees/Groups and Contacts:

Ministry and Clearness

Stephanie Preston

Peace and Social Concerns

Nelson Betancourt

First Day School

Judy Schmalstig

Finance

Dean Engstrom

Property

Dean Engstrom

Hospitality

Vickie Carlie

Calendar for the Month

October 9

Meeting for Business

Meeting for Healing will resume on the first Saturday in November.

Submit information to

bhumphrey2@earthlink.net

Contributors to

This Issue

Bill Carlie

Dean Engstrom

Liz Jenkins

Kay Leznick

Stephanie Preston

Thank You!

Spotlight On: Ministry and Clearness Committee

The "M&C" serves to do what the name of the Committee implies: minister to the members and attenders of the Meeting, and to help find clarity in spiritual matters for the Meeting as a whole or for individual Friends.

The Committee most typically serves the following functions for our Meeting:

- Nominating members and attenders to serve on various committees at the Meeting,
- Meeting with attenders who wish to become full members of the Meeting,
- Working with couples who wish to be married or joined together in the manner of Quakers before the whole Meeting,
- Responding to any specific problem or concern within the Meeting itself in order to work towards restoring unity in a peaceful way, and
- Ministering to those in the Meeting in need of spiritual support or comfort as they deal with personal issues like the loss of a loved one or health problems

M&C is available to serve any member or attender of the Meeting who asks for our help on a specific concern. The idea is to provide compassionate yet objective outside perspective in discerning what would be the best way for the Friend to deal whatever is going on, ultimately helping them detach enough from their own situation to be able to get a

clear sense of God's will. M&C members don't tell anybody what to do but can serve as a great sounding board and mirror to help a Friend move forward through a challenging life .

The current sense of M&C is that we are now in a healthy state of functioning with thriving attendance and free of any serious problems that impair Meeting. With this strong foundation, we want the Meeting as a whole to think more in terms of aspirations and growth of ourselves as a spiritual community. We invite members and attenders to let M&C know how they think we could serve the Meeting best in this capacity of developing a more thriving and spiritually enlightened community (e.g. adult religious education on Quaker process and teaching, monthly workshops, special silent worship gatherings, etc)

M&C is currently served by a small group of five veteran Meeting members who are familiar with Quaker process and SEYM faith and practice traditions:

Eduardo Yserm, Bill Carlie, Stephanie Preston, Chris Laning, Ann Jerome

Membership in the Committee is by two year appointment, currently serving from July 2010 to July 2012. The best way to bring something forward to M&C or arrange a time to meet is to contact Stephanie Preston (scpreston@yahoo.com or 321-287-6448), clerk of the M&C.

Library Corner

The library at Orlando Monthly Meeting contains many resources that can be enjoyed by members and attenders. Our resources range from well worn volumes signed and dedicated by the authors to brand new DVDs.

Our newest acquisition is the DVD "Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet," Director Michael Schwarz, Kikim Media and Unity Productions Foundation, 2002

This is a timely addition given the recent

controversy over location of a Muslim cultural center with a prayer room in walking distance of the World Trade Center site and joins many Meeting resources on other faiths.

For those of us seeking to explore Quaker faith, thought, and practice, many find Jim Pym's "Listening to the Light" a good place to begin. It can be found in QF, the "Quaker Foundations" section. www.quakerbooks.org/listening_to_the_light.php

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Financial Realities

Ours is the Religious Society of Friends, not the Business Society of Friends. However, to be effective members of our Meeting we must be familiar with certain business matters. This include how the Meeting pays its bills.

Quakers of Orlando is fortunate to own our Meeting house and the cottage property debt free. We also have a modest endowment, which is a source of funds for the maintenance of our property.

Our Quaker activities are the financial responsibility of our Members and Attenders (M&A). These Quaker activities include: First Day School, the library, Committee expenses, outreach, hospitality, office supplies, donations,

and Southeastern Yearly Meeting Apportionment (our share of our regional organization expense).

The total budgeted expense of our Quaker activities (excluding property maintenance) is \$10,450 per year. We have approximately 40 active Members and Attenders. Dividing our Quaker activity expense by 40 M&A results in an annual \$261.25 Quaker activity expense per M&A, or \$5.02 per week.

Some of our members and attenders are unable to pay this \$5.02 amount. Others can and do pay more to cover this total budgeted expense.

Many expense issues are brought forward at Meeting for Business, which allows everyone to stay informed.

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For those willing to delve into history, "The Story of Quakerism" by Elfrida Vipont, Friends United Press, 1977, is in our HST (history) section. This book shows signs of being loved like a velveteen rabbit and is now held together by a rubber band. It gives a fascinating account of Quaker history from the beginnings to the 1950s.

Some may find this bibliography of Quaker readings to be helpful and many of the books listed are available in our library: www.quaker.org/book-list.html

The Orlando Meeting library is a treasure trove of Quaker history and thought, as well as a valuable collection of writings on peace and philosophy. Contact Liz Jenkins for details about the collection or to check out books.

Who We Are: FCNL

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) **fields the largest team of registered peace lobbyists in Washington, DC.** Founded in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), FCNL staff and volunteers work with a nationwide network of tens of thousands of people from many different races, religions, and cultures to advocate social and economic justice, peace, and good government. FCNL is nonpartisan.

FCNL is also **the oldest registered ecumenical lobby in Washington, DC.** The organization's legislative priorities and policies are set by a General Committee made up of some 220 Quakers from around the country. FCNL's multi-issue advocacy connects historic Quaker testimonies on peace, equality, simplicity, and truth with peace and social justice issues which the United States government is or should be addressing.

(more about the meeting at http://www.fcnl.org/am/ann_meeting_2010.htm) Note there is an underscore between "ann" and "meeting."

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Newsletter Planning

Newsletters are not written by one person or even several people but by the collective. This is particularly true when we are talking about a group as diverse as Quaker Meeting.

In short, we need YOUR help. What are things you need to know, want to explore, or wish to explain? Ideas, suggestions, articles, and pointers to information are more than welcome, they are **essential** for the newsletter to succeed.

These are the general topics we hope to include in the newsletter:

Meeting Organization: How we work.

Giving: Places to donate money and materials.

Volunteerism: Where to donate time.

Events: Meetings, marches, etc. of interest to Quakers.

Quaker News: Local and world.

Quaker History: Origins, people.

Quaker Beliefs and Practices: Spiritual thoughts and expression.

People: Orlando Meeting attenders, as well as Quakers of all kinds.

Information: Pointers to information of all kinds, from books to television to the Internet.

Notes of all kinds: Recipes, favorite fiction, places to go, people to know, all with an eye toward the interests of Quakers.