



South Berkshire Friends Meeting

280 State Road
Great Barrington, MA 01230
Mail: P.O. Box 726

QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER

JULY-AUGUST 2010

Clerk: Harvey Kaminoff (kamih@aol.com)

JULY EVENTS – all are welcome

Sun., July 4	10:30am 10:30am	Meeting for Worship First Day School – Testimonies
Sun., July 11	10:30am 10:30am 11:30	Meeting for Worship First Day School – Potluck Potluck Luncheon
Fri., July 16	3:30pm	Peace & Social Concerns Committee Meeting
Sat., July 17	10:30am	Properties Committee Meeting
Sun., June 18	10:30am 10:30am 12:15 pm	Meeting for Worship First Day School (on as needed basis) Meeting for Business
Sun., July 25	10:30am 10:30am	Meeting for Worship First Day School (on as needed basis)

JULY QUERY

from Faith and Practice of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends 1985

HOME AND FAMILY Do you make your home a place of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where God becomes more real to those who live there and to all who visit there? Is worship a daily part of your personal and family life? Do you recognize marriage as a sacred, loving, and permanent relationship requiring mutual consideration and adjustments? Should conflict or crisis threaten the stability of the home, are you open to seeking all necessary help, both from your meeting and from the larger community?

COMMUNITY CORNER

Now to July 10 - Safe Disposal of Expired Medications South Berkshire Community Coalition asks residents to bring unused, unwanted or expired medications to the Great Barrington Police to dispose of them in a DEA approved disposal container. Container contents will be disposed of and properly destroyed Saturday July 10 from 9am to 2pm which avoids potentially contaminating local water supplies. For more information call 413-528-1919.

July 9 to 11 – Stockbridge Library Annual Book Sale daily from 9am to 6pm with a selection of 16,000 gently used books, CDs and DVDs. Preview Friday 9-1pm is \$5, after that admission is free. Proceeds benefit the Stockbridge Library.

On going - Drivers needed for Volunteers in Medicine, a free clinic offering medical and dental care, mental health services, ophthalmology and many other wellness programs to those who are income-qualified and uninsured. (www.vimberkshires.org) Please contact Susan Minnich, Volunteer Coordinator sminnich@vimberkshires.org or 528-4014.

Elise Boulding, Quaker Peace Scholar, passes

Elise Boulding, a sociologist, pacifist feminist and scholar who wrote extensively about conflict resolution in both personal and global relations and helped establish the academic field known as peace studies, died June 24 in Needham, Mass. She was 89. Ms. Boulding (pronounced BOWL-ding) taught at the University of Colorado and at Dartmouth and was the author of numerous books that explored factors inherent in building a less martial world. Ms. Boulding's books include "The Underside of History: A View of Women Through Time" (1975, revised 1992); "Women in the Twentieth Century World" (1977); and "Children's Rights and the Wheel of Life" (1978).

A Norwegian-born Quaker, she was nominated for the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize by the American Friends Service Committee, the service arm of the Quaker faith, which was a co-recipient of the Nobel in 1947. She came late to academia and a life of letters and advocacy, receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1969 only after raising five children. Her experience as a mother and a homemaker, she often said, informed much of her work.

Ms. Boulding advocated for the greater inclusion of women at the highest levels of diplomacy. She argued that strong families and the early education of children in nonviolent problem-solving were significant assets in humanity's defense against a trigger-happy future.

She delineated the importance of nongovernmental organizations — from the Girl Scouts to Unesco — in creating cross-cultural communities that mitigate the belligerent effects of national rivalries. She pleaded for the greater consideration of and respect for the cultures of third world and primitive societies. She promoted environmentalism as a precept that gave individuals a stake in the perpetuation of a peaceable planet. And she pointed out time and again that though the world's attention was most often focused on humankind's penchant for conflict and violence, an equivalent, perhaps even a more powerful, penchant for peaceable behavior existed in human beings as well.

"A richer and more diversified peace culture than any of us can now easily imagine, an international global peace culture, is there to be built out of the languages and lifeways and knowledge and experience worlds of the

'10,000 societies' now spread across the 185 states of today's world," she wrote in "Cultures of Peace: The Hidden Side of History" (2000), a book considered to be the culmination of her life's work.

Elise Marie Biorn-Hansen was born in Oslo on July 6, 1920. At age 3 she moved with her parents to northern New Jersey, where her father, Joseph, worked as an engineer for Carrier, the air-conditioning manufacturer, and her mother, Birgit, who had trained to be a nurse, was a massage therapist. She graduated from Douglass College (now part of Rutgers University). After moving to Syracuse, where her family had resettled, she met and married Kenneth Boulding, an economist and poet, in 1941.

For much of the first 25 years of their marriage, the couple and their children moved to accommodate Mr. Boulding's academic travels. Among other places, they lived in Nashville and in Ames, Iowa, where Ms. Boulding completed an M.A. at Iowa State, and spent many years in Ann Arbor, Mich. There, in the early 1960s, when peace studies, an interdisciplinary field that examines violent and nonviolent behavior in personal, political and historical contexts and the sources and resolution of conflict, was emerging as a legitimate program of inquiry, she helped found the scholarly organization the International Peace Research Association. She also pursued a doctorate at the University of Michigan and ran unsuccessfully for Congress as an opponent of the Vietnam War.

While she was working on her dissertation, the family moved to Boulder, Colo., and in 1968 Ms. Boulding became the leader of the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom, the antiwar group whose first president was Jane Addams. At the University of Colorado at Boulder, she founded the program in peace studies, and later, after she moved to Dartmouth, she helped build the program there as well.

She often said her path in life was determined by World War II. When she was a girl, she recalled, her mother had been homesick for Norway, and young Elise conceived of that country as a haven, a place to hold in reserve as a retreat, where she would always be safe. That vision was shattered in 1940 by the Nazi invasion of Norway. "And that was when I realized that there was no safe place on earth," she said. "And I knew that I had found my life's mission."

Edited version - Bruce Weber, NY Times, July 1, 2010

NEW!

SBFM Library Corner - A Summer Mystery

Welcome to the first of an occasional series of columns on your Meeting's library. If you haven't stopped by and perused the shelves lately, you may be surprised by the number of new additions recently donated by Meeting members. For a relatively small Meeting, we have a truly impressive library (actually, it would be truly impressive even for a large meeting!). In addition to a solid collection of Quaker-influenced writings, a broad range of spiritual traditions are represented as well - from Judaism to Christianity, Islam and Buddhism. In future columns, we'll explore some of the items on offer, and provide reader feedback and insights as well.

But hey, it's summer! And although the Dalai Lama always makes for inspirational reading, you don't necessarily want to take him with you to the beach. So, to kick off the first Library Corner column, we would like to introduce you to Elizabeth Elliot.

Elizabeth is the protagonist of Irene Allen's Quaker mystery novels. Quaker mystery novels? That's right! And just in time for summer, too.

Elizabeth Elliot is the fictional clerk of the Cambridge Massachusetts Friends Meeting. When a prominent meeting member is found murdered (!), Elizabeth – a "mature-woman-of-a-certain-age" – delves into the mystery. Could the murderer really be another Friend? And with friends like that ... but I digress. Cups of tea flow freely as Elizabeth and other meeting elders don their sensible shoes and hit the detective trail.

Quaker Silence, the first of the Elizabeth Elliot mystery series, is a wonderful summer read. It is light, fast moving, fun, and yes, the mystery is nicely laid out and the resolution is satisfying. If you like mystery novels, with occasional Quaker elders throwing in a "thee" or a "thou" now and then (and who doesn't?), then give any of our library's Irene Allen novels a try.

And you thought we only had George Fox on the shelves!

Enjoy the summer and whatever summer reading you explore. If you need help navigating the library, Margaret, Shirley, John or Mitchie would be happy to help you out!

Submitted by John Farrell

CLERKS CORNER with highlights from June meeting for Business

Well, we're into the summer now and it's six months since I assumed the clerkship. Thanks to everyone who has helped me – we do have a solid group. Some activities – Business Meeting, the Newsletter and some committee meetings - are not scheduled in August. If there are any special circumstances that arise that require Business Meeting consideration, please let me know. We can always request a "Called Meeting" for specific items or issues.

The June Business Meeting heard from the Website Committee who reported that they are between 85 and 90 % complete with the design and implementation of this welcome resource. The site itself will soon be available for us to access. Chuck Pierce distributed "power point" presentations that outlined procedures of governance and the proposed e-mail policy. Both presentations were approved.

We look forward to another Adult Education program being considered for the fall. Among subjects being considered is "Prayer and Healing." Chase Crosley read the State of Society Report that had previously been approved by Ministry and Counsel. The report was well received and approved by the Business Meeting. The report was sent to our e-mail distribution list and I will leave hard copies in the Welcome Hall.

It was nice to see Les Clifford at Meeting for Worship on June 27. Les was an active participant in the Lenox Worship Group that was laid down about 2 years ago. Les represented that Group at our Ministry and Counsel meetings. Les said that he received the State of Society Report and was drawn to visit our Meeting for Worship by the "deepening silence" discussion in that report.

Storrs and Shirley Olds granddaughter, Molly Mitchell-Olds, spoke after Meeting for Worship on June 27 about her work with the Quaker United Nations Office. Her talk

was well attended and enthusiastically received. Thank you Molly!

There is a major **Peace Conference in Albany during the last weekend in July** – one of the major speakers is Noam Chomsky, a truly remarkable human being who has been a powerful voice for peace for many years.

Also upcoming is **Yearly Meeting on August 7-12 at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.** Anyone who wishes to attend and who might need some financial support, please see me. I have left some current material on these two items on the bench in the Welcome Hall. Also on the bench are statements and forms to sign and mail from the Quakers for Immigration Justice Group.

We are pleased that we were able to cooperate with our next door neighbors, Hevreh Synagogue and their affiliated group Berkshire Minyan, by making our Meeting House available to them during the High Holy Days. The

AUGUST EVENTS – all are welcome

Sun., August 1 10:30am Meeting for Worship
10:30am First Day School Testimonies

Sun., August 8 10:30am Meeting for Worship
10:30am First Day School – Potluck
11:30am Potluck Luncheon

Sun., August 15 10:30am Meeting for Worship
10:30am First Day School (as needed)

Tai Chi group that normally meets on Saturdays has agreed to not meet on Yom Kippur, September 18.

Although some committees will not be meeting in August, our Meetings for Worship are ongoing and we look forward to our regular shared worship. I have heard from several people who experience and value our deepening shared silence and the speaking that organically flows out of it. This, I believe, is truly the “heart” of our Meeting and why we are drawn and remain together.

Happy summer to all.

Submitted by Clerk Harvey Kaminoff

Sun., August 22 10:30am....Meeting for Worship
10:30am First Day School (as needed)

Sun., August 29 10:30am....Meeting for Worship
10:30am First Day School (as needed)

Please submit materials to sbfmnewsletter@yahoo.com

South Berkshire Friends Meeting
Seth Keyes & Sally Michael Keyes, Editors
22 Gilmore Avenue
Great Barrington, MA 01230