



South Berkshire Friends Meeting

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

QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER December 2010

DECEMBER EVENTS – All are welcome

Sat., Dec 4	5:00 PM Holiday Party
Sun, Dec 5	10:30AM Meeting for Worship
Sun, Dec 12	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship and Pot Luck
Wed, Dec 15	3:30 PM Ministry and Counsel
Fri, Dec 17	3:30 PM Peace and Social Concerns
Sat, Dec 18	9:00 AM Properties Committee,
Sun Dec 19	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship 12:00 Noon Meeting for Busines
Sun, Dec 26	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship

Clerk: Harvey Kaminoff, kamih@aol.com

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

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - Do you respect the worth of every human being as a child of God? Do you uphold the right of all persons to justice and human dignity? Do you endeavor to create political, social and economic institutions which will sustain and enrich the life of all? Do you fulfill all civic obligations which are not contrary to divine leadings? Do you give spiritual and material support to those who suffer for conscience's sake?

This issue of the Newsletter is being prepared rather hastily due to the major new responsibilities of our regular editors, Sally and Seth Keyes. They will be unable to continue as editors and we are actively searching for a replacement. Many thanks to Seth and Sally and we hold them in the light as they take on the new responsibilities in their careers.

WALTER WINK AND JUNE KEENER WINK HONORED AT UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

On October 15, 2010, Walter Wink, receiving Union Theological Seminary's Distinguished Alumni/ae Unitas Award, was honored as a transfor-mational theologian and "a peace and justice activist." Walter received both Master of Divinity and Ph.D. degrees from Union, which had, in Walter's words, "opened the floodgates to a more expansive way of thinking." Professor Thomas W. Porter, who introduced Walter, noted that, in workshops around the world, Walter often taught with his wife, June Keener Wink. "We can't," he said, "underestimate the importance of June to Walter in the development of an embodied, transformational theology."

Union Theological Seminary President Serene Jones read and presented Walter's award:2010 Unitas Award:

Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York

Proudly honors distinguished alumnus

Walter Wink '59, '63

***Beloved professor, award-winning author, pastor, risk-taker and visionary;
for naming, unmasking and engaging the powers which threaten peace,
social justice and human thriving worldwide; for his unwavering commitment
to the ministry of reconciliation and advocacy for non-violence;
and for his innovative, transformative and interdisciplinary methods of
biblical studies dedicated to the partnership of mind, body and spirit.***

Since June shared in the honors of the evening, it seemed especially appropriate that varied arts were featured. President Jones, surrounded by paintings hung in the auditorium earlier in the week for a seminar on art and religion, observed at the opening of the award ceremony that it was appropriate at the end of the week to turn to the crowning achievement of the arts, the art of a life well lived, a life exemplified by Walter's. In the same vein, President Katherine Henderson of Auburn Theological Seminary made a special presentation to Walter and June, who had served together on the Auburn faculty as they conducted workshops together worldwide:

“Walter and June, Auburn is privileged to join Union in honoring you this evening. For some thirty years you served as Auburn’s professor of biblical interpretations—and together you crisscrossed this nation and the world, artfully weaving together a life of brilliant scholarship, and activism for peace and justice. You have said: ‘When God wants to initiate a new movement in history, God does not intervene directly, but sends us dreams and visions that can, if attended to, initiate the process.’ So, tonight we are presenting you with art, a weaving, called ‘The Tree of Life Holds a Place for Peace.’ The artist, Laurie Gross, says of this piece, ‘While I feel a sense of despair about the recurring tragedies, there is something in me that won’t give up hope. I am looking for something to hold onto, some thread that will remind me that peace still has a chance.’ In this piece, a red thread appears intertwined in the roots of the tree, and there is a golden nest set in one of the branches of the tree. The nest sits, awaiting the dove of peace. May we see that dove come to rest as a reality in our world and in our lifetime.

“Walter and June, we present this work to you with admiration, love and thanks for nurturing the vision and hope for a peaceful and just world in all of us through a lifetime of creative ministry.”

Thomas Porter opened his review of Walter’s major writings by saying, “I know of no New Testament scholar who has made a greater impact on the church, the academy and society on a local and/or global level. In my reading, no New Testament scholar is cited more than Walter.” Porter noted the broad influence of several of Walter’s books:

“In... *The Bible in Human Transformation* (1973) and *Transforming Bible Study: A Leader’s Guide* (1980), Walter helped us see beyond objectivism and demystification to see how the engagement of the text speaks to our current context and can lead to personal and social transformation. He brought psychological insights to the text, understanding the archetypal power of biblical imagery...

“In... *Jesus’ Third Way: The Relevance of Non-Violence in South Africa Today* (1988), and *Jesus and Non-Violence: A Third Way* (2003), he showed us how Jesus developed a way that was different from violence or pacifism, the way of non-violent resistance, a way of fighting what we hate without becoming what we hate.” Porter added that in travels in South Africa he “found *Jesus’ Third Way* on everyone’s shelf, having been smuggled into South Africa, and heard about its importance in the ultimately non-violent revolution in South Africa.”

“In the trilogy on the Powers, *Naming the Powers* (1984), *Unmasking the Powers* (1986), and *Engaging the Powers* (1992), summarized in *The Powers That Be* (1998), he gave us insight into the very nature of reality, the “Domination System”, and Jesus’ vision of a domination-free order...

“In... *The Human Being* (2002), he helped us understand the humanity of Jesus, the humanity of God, and God’s destiny for humanity, ‘to become human as God is Human.’”

Walter and June stood together at the lectern as June read Walter’s acceptance speech. Walter wrote of teaching at Union “students, who in turn often taught me, as we explored Biblical texts together” while studying with “renowned professors who provided a rich and solid academic and theological foundation (even if they didn’t always share my point of view).” It was at Union, he wrote, where he began life-long friendships and where “our children played and grew in the midst of marches and rallies.” His subsequent tenure at Auburn Seminary allowed him “the freedom to travel, to write, to work with my wife-partner, June, for thirty years, and to gather the experiences without which the work of the Powers could not have been accomplished. My sabbatical in Chile gave me a taste of life under a military dictatorship. It was there that I first identified the Domination System and began my exploration of the Powers. While moving in and out of South Africa under Apartheid, where the country was on the edge of a violent solution, I could see that there was a third way. This led to a commitment to non-violence, and to my little book, *Jesus’ Third Way*.”

Walter’s acceptance speech concluded with mention of his struggle with dementia, which has made writing slower and more difficult, though “it remains gratifying and exciting.” Books worked on in recent years, including an autobiography that includes some early papers, are now being edited for publication. Walter concluded, “The disease has taken its toll, but the work goes on, and for that I am grateful. It is with great joy and peace of heart that I receive this award. Thank you!”

Thanks were returned as those in the auditorium rose as one to applaud in a standing ovation. As those present observed, the response conveyed more than admiration; the room overflowed with love of Walter Wink and June Keener Wink.

Submitted by Mac Simms.

CLERKS CORNER – NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

November Business Meeting Highlights: The Finance Committee reported that the annual appeal letter would be going out shortly. Some of the expenses incurred this year refer to building repairs and may not be repeated next year. The inclusion of Lester Clarke's History of the Meeting in our website was held over for further seasoning. There was some feeling that the amount of detail in Lester's account might not be of interest to general browsers of the website.

Alan Price reported on the Quarterly Meeting. It was considered by all to be very successful. Our contingent was the largest present and Alan's handling of registration is gratefully appreciated.

The program on October 5, sponsored by our Meeting as well as the Church on the Hill, was well attended. Ron Young, an expert on the Middle East, spoke about the prospects for peace in that troubled part of the world. Many of us felt that we should be doing more public outreach with events such as this one.

The Business Meeting approved a Minute on Torture and endorsed the National Religious Campaign against Torture. Similarly, we agreed to be a co-sponsor of the Human Rights Speaker Series

It's that time of year again – our annual Christmas Party will take place on Saturday, Dec 4 beginning at 5:00 PM. June Keener Wink and Elizabeth Keen are coordinating preparations for the party. They have asked that some of us be at the Meeting House prior to 5:00 PM to help with preparations. Please remember that it is a "pot luck" party.

Our literature tables in the Welcome Hall are "stuffed" with useful and interesting material. Please feel free to "browse". Copies of Friends Journal, for example, may be taken home to be read and returned at your leisure. New Attenders of the Meeting might be interested in an "Inquirers Packet" located on the table by the front door. Again, these may be taken home and returned at your leisure.

The Nominating Committee has been meeting to propose a committee slate for 2011. Anyone experiencing a "calling" to serve on a particular committee can speak to Storrs Olds, June Keener Wink, John Farrell or me.

We are all reminded, if possible, to check the appointment book in the library before committing to a particular time for a committee or an outside group meeting. All requests for reserved space should be coordinated through me. We want to make our facilities generally available to the community and we also want to avoid embarrassing conflicts. Please note that there are two ongoing groups that meet Saturday morning: Laughing Dragon Tai Chi approximately 10:00AM to 12:30 PM; AI-Anon 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM. These two groups use the Meeting Room and the library respectively. If needed, the smaller children's room is available during these times.

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