



South Berkshire Friends Meeting

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QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER

January 2011

Clerk: Harvey Kaminoff, kamih@aol.com

JANUARY EVENTS – All are welcome

Sun., Jan 2 10:30 AM Meeting for Worship
Sun. Jan 9 10:30 AM Meeting for Worship and Pot Luck
Wed. Jan 12 3:30 PM Ministry and Counsel
Fri. Jan. 14 3:30 PM Peace and Social Concerns
Sat. Jan.15 9:00 AM Properties Committee.
Sun. Jan. 16 10:30 Meeting for Worship
Sun. Jan. 16 12:00 Noon Meeting for Business
Sun. Jan 23 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study
Sun. Jan.23 10:30 Meeting for Worship
Sun. Jan. 30 10:30 Meeting for Worship

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

Peace and Reconciliation

Do you “live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars”? Do you faithfully maintain Friends testimony against military preparations and all participation in war as inconsistent with the teachings and spirit of Christ? Do you strive to increase understanding and use of non-violent methods of resolving conflicts?

Do you take your part in the ministry of reconciliation between individuals groups and nations? When discouraged, do you remember that Jesus said, “Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears? John 14:27 NEB

This first issue of the Newsletter for 2011 is being prepared by the Clerk. We are actively pursuing the appointment of a new Editor and hope to be able to report on this shortly. Happy New Year to all. Let us hold the new decade in the light and that the many problems of the first decade of the 21st century are now past us. Our Meeting remains a central resource of Peace and fellowship for many of us and we celebrate each other and our fellowship.

ADULT EDUCATION TO RESUME

On Sunday, January 23, 2011, June Wink and Alan Price will lead an adult Bible study session on **the story of Jacob wrestling with the angel, Genesis, Chapter 32**. We want to **start promptly at 9:15 a.m.** to allow plenty of time for folks to settle in to a deep meditation on the passage and, after our discussion, to allow time for a personal activity that may help to bring home a meaning for the passage. Please read the passage in a modern translation (*The [Jerusalem Bible](#), The New English Bible, The Revised Standard Version*

A guiding principle: "What we seek in this approach is not an authoritative Truth to which one is bound to consent, but an

encounter with understandings of God and of human life which can call our own lives into question, open new vistas of possibility, and empower us to be transformed." (Walter Wink, *Transforming Bible Study*, pp. 91-92) Copies of *Transforming Bible Study* are available in the Meeting House library, if you would like to learn more about the approach we will use.

CLERKS CORNER

Our Christmas/Holiday party was a great success. Good food and good fellowship dominated the party. Many thanks to the committee for organizing a joyful event .

January Business Meeting Highlights: The Finance Committee reported the Pennies for Pilgrims fund now stood at \$1800. The following is a quote from the latest issue of *The New England Friend*:

"South Berkshire Monthly Meeting has a box called Pennies for Pilgrims. In the 1980's the meeting began collecting donations to help South Berkshire youth participate in Friends World Committee for Consultation Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. Over the years two young people have used money from that fund and there is still over \$1,700 awaiting the meeting's next pilgrim."

This fund is currently available to Young Friends.

The abridged history of the Meeting continues to be held over for seasoning. Quarterly Meeting will be at SBMM on February 6. We are responsible for hospitality. We will need and are asking for one or two people to help coordinate this event.

We are asked to reflect on the following questions to be discussed at the Quarterly Business Meeting. We are considering a Called Meeting within the next few weeks to consider these questions: .

What do or don't local meetings want from yearly meeting in matters such as family and youth programs, peace and social concerns, adult Quaker education, treasurer/finance committee forums, finding new members, etc.? 2) How might yearly meeting support local meetings in the work/ministry of Friends in the wider world? 3) How do we encourage Friends to volunteer for Quaker activities and what are the impediments to doing this? And 4) Are local meetings able to support yearly meeting's financial needs?

The Meeting approved a Statement of Resolution concerning the PCB cleanup of the Housatonic River. The full Statement is posted on the bulletin board.

The Nominating Committee's recommended slate for committees, etc will be presented for approval at the January Business Meeting.

The next Business meeting is January 16.

SBMM Funds

In addition to the Pennies for Pilgrims Fund the Meeting supports a Kendal Loan Fund: This fund dates back to the early days of Quakerism. It is available as a loan to those who might be in need of financial help. The loan accrues no interest and although the expectation is that it will be repaid, there is no such formal requirement, The amount currently available is \$500.

There is also a First Day School Fund now amounting to a little over \$1,000. This fund resulted from yard sales several years ago and is available to First Day School. The fund can be accessed by the Clerk of First Day School.

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