



South Berkshire Friends Meeting

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QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER MARCH 2011

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MARCH EVENTS – All are welcome

Sun. Mar 6	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship
Tue. Mar 8	4:00 PM Ministry and Counsel
Sun. Mar 13	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship and Pot Luck
Fri. Mar 18	3:30 PM Peace and Social Concerns
Sun. Mar 20	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship
Sun. Mar 20	12:00 Noon Meeting for Business
Sun. Mar 27	9:15 AM Adult Bible Study
Sun. Mar 27	10:30 Meeting for Worship

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

MEETING BUSINESS – Are meetings for business held in a spirit of worship and prayerful search for the way of Truth? Are all members encouraged to use their talents in the service of the meeting? Do you undertake your proper share of the work and financial support of the meeting?

CLERK'S CORNER – March 2011

Highlights of February Business Meeting: After several months of seasoning, the abridged history of the Meeting was approved for inclusion in our website. Also our submission to the Great Barrington 250th anniversary book was approved. Beth Bogart's application for membership in the Meeting was approved. Beth was also approved as editor of our newsletter. We welcome Beth and look forward to her participation in our fellowship. Alan Papsun was approved for membership on the Properties Committee. The Business Meeting also approved a policy of not allowing food or drink in the Meeting Room. A sign indicating this will be posted in an appropriate place. Exceptions for medical reasons will be allowed.

Bible studies met again on February 27. Key passages from the synoptic gospels were considered using Walter Wink's book "Transforming Bible Study" as a guide. The experiential format appeared to be welcome. We are considering devoting

the last Sunday of the month to these studies. Thanks again to June Keener Wink and Alan Price.

I would like to remind our community that we are all responsible for hospitality each Sunday. We don't need everybody to do this each Sunday, but please consider participating from time to time – our social time seems to work out one way or another but a welcome change is always appreciated.

I am feeling deep gratitude that we have our own Meeting House. I am in touch with other congregations that are not quite as fortunate as we are. In particular, the Unitarian and the Episcopal congregations in Great Barrington, both of which at present do not have a permanent home, have recently requested use of our facilities for specific events. We are happy to accommodate them when we can. Although Hevreh has a fine facility of their own, we have also been able, on occasion, to accommodate their needs for additional space. Please continue to remember that when you are supporting our Meeting you are also supporting our ability to support others.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – February Session

Members and attenders of South Berkshire Friends have asked for more religious education programs, and the Ministry and Counsel Committee has answered their request by holding a series of adult Bible study sessions.

The sessions are being conducted by June Keener Wink and Alan Price. Their approach is guided by Walter Wink's book *Transforming Bible Study*, borrowing from the "split-brain" research that shows that if we are **only** understanding the Bible with our intellect, we are missing half the human response. Each session begins with a centering silence followed by a reading of the passage of the day, then an open discussion prompted by some questions about the passage, and finally (and most importantly) we conclude with an activity involving the right side of our brain—the side connected to feelings, art, and music.

So far, the group (there are usually eight to twelve people at each session) has looked at Jacob wrestling with the angel (Genesis 32:24-32) and at Jesus' injunction to each of us to love our enemies (Matthew 5:43-48 and Luke 6:27-28).

The next adult Bible study session will be on judging (Matthew 7:1-5 and Luke 6:37-38, 41-41) and on anger (Matthew 5: 21-24). We will meet on **Sunday, March 27, 2011; and we begin promptly at 9:15 a.m.** so that we have plenty of time for our discussion and activity before Meeting for Worship. A variety of responses are welcome, because as Walter says: "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." (pp. 91-92)

Please feel welcome to join us.

COMMUNITY CORNER – March 2011

Tuesday, March 1 (7:00pm)

Health Risks of PCBs in the Housatonic River - Dr. David Carpenter at the First Congregational Church (Parish Room), Main Street, Great Barrington

Saturday, March 5 (10am - 2:30pm)

Church Women United - World Day of Prayer at the South Congregational Church, 110 South Street, Pittsfield (Lunch and Registration. \$8, may be paid at the door)

Tuesday, March 15 (7:00pm)

Community Forum to Discuss the Future of Local Food and Farms at the First Congregational Church (Parish Room), Main Street, Great Barrington

Sponsored by the Great Barrington Agricultural Commission and the Glynwood Institute to launch the Keep Farming initiative in South County. In the face of rising petroleum prices, how can we protect and encourage local food sourcing rather than dependence on food shipped from across the country and from overseas? The Keep Farming project seeks to develop a plan for creating a stabilized economic base in local and regional agriculture, increase food security and identify factors that contribute to our quality of life.

www.Glynwood.org

Please submit newsletter material to:
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