



The Arboretum

Wilton Monthly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends Newsletter, Fifth Month 2007

Meetings

Meetings for Worship are held the First Day of each week (Sunday) at 10:00 a.m. at 317 New Canaan Road, Wilton, CT 06897, (203) 762-5669. Adult Religious Education precedes Meeting for Worship at 9 a.m. Children attend the Meeting for the first 15 minutes and then attend First Day School.

Clerk's Corner

... whosoever will be great among you, shall be your servant: and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

Mark 10:43-44

Two speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr., *The Three Dimensions of a Complete Life* given in Chicago in 1967 and *I've Been to the Mountaintop* given April 3, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, the night before he was assassinated use the parable of the good Samaritan to make the point that in order to be complete as a person one must consider more than themselves.

The road from Jerusalem (2200 feet above sea level) to Jericho (1200 feet below sea level), on which this event took place winds through a desolate area conducive to crime, commonly called "the Bloody Path" in Jesus' time. Why didn't the Levites stop to help the injured man on this road? It was a fearful place; and they asked, "If we stop to help this man, what will happen to us?" Interestingly, Dr. King relates a story in which he acts much as they did.

The good Samaritan, on the other hand, asked, "What will happen to this man if I do not stop to help him?"

"And so Jesus gave us a new norm of greatness. If you want to be important — wonderful. If you want to be recognized — wonderful. If you want to be great — wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That's a new definition of greatness.

And this morning, the thing that I like about it: by giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant."

Martin Luther King, Jr.,
Drum Major Instinct Speech, Atlanta 1968

Woody Schempp

Inside this issue:

Clerk's Corner	1
Meeting Calendar	2
Minutes—Meeting for Worship with a concern for Business	3
Treasurer's Financial Report—1st Quarter	5
Letter from Bronx Children's School	7
Our Foreign Correspondent—Columbia	8
Deliberations—1st Day School	9
Editorial	9

6th Month, 2007

1st Day Sun	2nd Day Mon	3rd Day Tue	4th Day Wed	5th Day Thu	6th Day Fri	7th Day Sat
3 R—First Day School, Gillespie House	4 CFS Board of Directors Meeting	5 [CFS B of D meets First Second Day]	6 [Gillespie House Meeting provides dinner, every 1st 1st Day]	7 Finance, 7:30 pm	8 [Finance meets Thursday before MFWWCFB]	9
10 Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business	11 [MFWWCFB meets every 2nd First Day]	12	13	14	15	16
17 R—Clerks R—Peace & Service Quaker Inquiry	18 Ministry & Counsel	19 11:30 am Nursery School Committee	20 [Peace & Service meets the third First Day]	21 [M&C meets First Second Day after MFWWCFB]	22 [Nursery School meets 3rd 3rd Day]	23
24 P-House & Grounds	25 [House & Grounds meets the fourth First Day]	26	27	28	29	30

Committee meetings are held at the Meeting House unless otherwise noted.

P—Committee meeting held **Prior** to Meeting, 9 a.m.; **R**—Committee meeting held after **Rise** of Meeting
Please call the committee clerk if you plan to attend a committee meeting to verify time and location.

Please note: new clerks may have been established for the year commencing 7/1/05

Connecticut Friends School—Deedie Dominicali (914) 273-4807

Finance—James Hamilton (203) 854-5256

First Day School—Judy Mickle (203) 325-2334

Helen Gander Friends Nursery School—Martha Gurvich (203) 843-3433

Hospitality—Doris Munger (203) 966-1710

House & Grounds—Jim Holdsworth, (203) 831-0070

Nominating—Jeff Menoher- (203) 866-5610

Norwalk Clergy Association—Missy Conrad (203) 847-9790

Peace & Service—Diane Keefe & Regina McIlvain (203) 846-4403), (203) 682-6432

Ministry & Counsel—Jeff Menoher (203) 866-5610

Overseers—Sean Higgins, Tom Martin (203) 849-0012, (203) 222-0442

Minutes of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Fifth Month 20, 2007

Meeting gathered in silent worship. Those present were Becky Bunnell, John Lee, Rich Francis, John Steer, Marilyn Atkin, Missy Conrad, Munro Johnson, Kim Tsocanos, Michel Loth, Chris Henson, Jerry Leaphart, Frances Salant, Jeff Menoher, Dana Raphael, Virginia Perry, Judy Meikle, Woody Schempp (Clerk) and Tom Martin (Recording Clerk).

Clerk reviewed the agenda and read the following for the consideration and guidance of Friends gathered:

- As we reflect on our experience, intimations emerge about the nature of God. In this we are helped by the experiences of others which enlighten our path. We remember Nayler in his suffering testifying to 'a spirit which delights to do no evil nor to revenge any wrong' and Barclay when he first went to Friends' meetings, feeling the evil weakening in him and the good being raised up. We recall those who have been upheld by love, or filled with joy, or called to commit their lives to service, or who have sensed a divine reality in the wonder of the world or in the depths of being or in the hardest challenges of life.

Faith & Practice, Britain Yearly Meeting

- I do not know the course I am to run, all is hid in mystery, but I try to do right in everything... Look up to true religion We the very first of blessings, cherish it, nourish and let it flourish and bloom in my heart; it wants taking care of, it is difficult to obtain. I must not despair or grow skeptical if I do not always feel religious. I felt God as it were, and I must seek to find Him again.

Elizabeth Fry, 1798

- The light for which the world longs is already shining. It is shining into the darkness, but the darkness does not apprehend it. It is shining into the darkness, but the darkness is not overcoming it. It is shining in many a soul, and already the new order has begun within the kingdom of the heart. It is shining in many a small group and creating a heavenly-earthly fellowship of children of the light. It will always shine and lead many into the world of need, that they may bear it up into the heart of God.

Thomas R Kelly, 1941

Treasurer's Report: Rich Francis distributed the report for the first quarter 2007. He hopes that a separate new format prepared for the Arboretum will be easier for our editor to reproduce. Heating oil is up, and we have an increase in the cost of our insurance coverage. Other expenses and the cash flow are as expected. He reminded Friends that the summer time is slow for income, yet our fixed expenses are on going, and that more regular contributions are extremely important, given that most of our contributions come at year end. For the year 2006 the operating account was in the black including a contribution to our capital account.

John Lee suggested we might alert NYYM that we may have difficulty providing the full amount of our covenant donations for the year. Kim Tsocanos spoke to lift up the work of the YM and its area-wide, national, and international witness and reminded Friends that our cash contributions to local organizations are minimal. Rich was asked to carry back this counsel to the Finance Committee. Tom Martin asked that we be mindful of the covenant nature of our donations to NYYM, a collaborative discernment not an assessment. Kim alerted Friends of an upcoming workshop on fund raising for spiritual organizations.

(Continued on page 4)

Overseers Committee: Tom Martin reported that a clearness committee appointed on the membership of Anthony Dalessio found that he was clear for membership. Another clearness committee appointed on the membership for Lisa Kuller found that she was clear for membership. This couple asked that their daughters, Michaela and Hannah, be included as youth members. Overseers Committee recommended approval of these memberships.

Minute 2007-05-01: Meeting approved the memberships of Anthony Dalessio and Lisa Kuller and youth memberships for their daughters, Michaela and Hannah.

Becky Bunnell, Munro Johnson, Rich Francis, and Woody Schempp will serve on a welcoming committee for these new Friends, and we will include them in plans for a potluck to celebrate new members and attenders.

Long Range Planning: Previously Meeting approved spending \$5,000 for a professional firm to inspect and evaluate our meetinghouse, including the roof, heating system, etc., and Munro Johnson reported that we have already contracted for this work. He asked for approval of an additional \$1,000 to include Hastings Hall. Rich Francis suggested expressed concern for the total amount we are spending on this task. Becky Bunnell suggested that we need the integrity of an independent evaluation by a professional who has no expectation of getting any of the work that might need to be done. Kim Tsocanos suggested we be mindful of the level our capital fund needs to be, and that this study would be important in that determination. Michel Loth reported on the process used by House and Grounds for major maintenance expenditures for the meetinghouse. Munro reported that the extra expenditure was reasonable and cost effective. Judy Meikle spoke in favor of this expenditure. Tom Martin asked Friends to be good stewards of all our property.

Minute 2007-05-02: Meeting approved the addition expenditure of \$1,000 to include Hastings Hall in the property inspection and evaluation.

Connecticut Friends Report: Kim Tsocanos, Co-Head of the School referred to the purchase agreement with the owners of the White Barn Theater property that was scheduled to close in early summer. Although extensive plans were submitted in February, the schedule has been delayed by the Conservation Commission and hearings of the Planning and Zoning beyond the expected closing date of June 30. Work with all the neighbors (with a single exception) and with the various commissions has been successful. Many neighbors have become solid supporters of the school testifying on its behalf at public sessions. Mindful that there is always the possibility of an appeal in this process, Kim asked Friends to hold the School in the light of prayer in its work and deliberations toward establishing its new home.

Nominating: Tom Martin reported for Nominating and distributed a draft slate of committees and positions. A long discussion followed, and Friends offered ministry. The slate of committees and positions will be held over until next month and Nominating will continue to work on filling open positions.

Naming Committee (2 or more Friends to serve chosen from those present):

May business meeting= approve naming committee of 2 or more members

June business meeting= first consideration of new nominees for this committee that's held over for one month.

July business meeting = final consideration

August 1 = new nominating committee begins service to meeting

(Continued on page 5)

Minutes (Continued from page 4)

Minute 200705-03: Marilyn Atkin and Munro Johnson volunteered to serve on the Naming Committee. We are led to allow those serving to nominate themselves. Meeting approved.

The Clerk read the following:

If you build upon anything or have confidence in anything which stands in time and is on this side eternity and the Being of beings, your foundation will be swept away, and night will come upon you, and all your gathered-in things and taken-on and imitated will all fail you... Why gad you abroad? Why trim you yourselves with the saints' words, when you are ignorant of the life? Return, return to Him that is the first Love, and the first-born of every creature, who is the Light of the world... Return home to within, sweep your houses all, the goat is there, the little leaven is there, the grain of mustard-seed you will see, which the Kingdom of God is like; ... and here you will see your Teacher not removed into a corner, but present when you are upon your beds and about your labour, convincing, instructing, leading, correcting, judging and giving peace to all that love and follow Him.

Francis Howgill, 1656

Meeting closed after a period of silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Martin

Treasurer's Financial Report—First Quarter 2007

Meeting financial report for the First Quarter of 2007, December 31, 2006 thru March 31, 2007 submitted by the Treasurer, Rich Francis.

Operating Account	
Checkbook: 12/31/06 Balance	\$21,447.69
3 Mos Net Cash Flow*	(7,243.88)
From Peoples Securities	0.00
3/31/07 Balance	\$14,403.81
Peoples Securities: 12/31/06 Balance	1,505.43
Contributions	0.00
Appreciation/Income Net	(5.10)
Distributions to Checking	0.00
3/31/07 Balance	\$1,500.33
Total 3/31 Operating Account Balance	\$15,904.14

Capital Account

Pax Fund:	12/31/06 Balance	\$93,248.07
	2007 Interest	1,078.20
	2007 Contributions	0.00
	3/31/07 Balance	\$94,326.27

* Excludes Stock Contributions

** Differential reflects contract payment timing

- 1) Contributions are almost identical with last year quarter to quarter.
- 2) H&G expenses are up due principally to contract timing for heating oil and insurance, though for the year as a whole we expect costs to be up about \$2,800, mostly for heating oil and electricity.
- 3) We hope Friends will give Meeting an extra thought this time of year as the first three quarters of the year are a periods of significant cash depletion.

(Continued on Page 6)

January 1 thru March 31, 2007. 2006	2007 vs. 2006 Comparison		
	3 Mos. 2007	3 Mos. 2006	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
SOURCES OF CASH			
Conn. Friends School	0.00	0.00	0.00
Friends Nursery School	0.00	400.00	(400.00)
WMM Congregation	3,845.06	3,868.74	(23.68)
TOTAL Sources of Cash	\$3,845.06	\$4,268.74	(\$423.68)
USES OF CASH			
House & Grounds Expenditures			
Electricity	671.88	567.97	(103.91)
Heating Oil (note ** below)	1,548.94	178.98	(1,369.96) **
Insurance (note ** below)	800.00	-66.00	(866.00) **
Janitorial Cleaning	1,785.00	1,785.00	0.00
Maintenance (Plumbing, repairs, etc.)	0.00	415.78	415.78
Security & Fire Alarm	456.00	0.00	(456.00)
Snowplowing	220.00	525.00	305.00
Telephone	151.47	135.06	(16.41)
Water	154.87	94.63	(60.24)
TOTAL House & Grounds Expenditures	\$5,788.16	\$3,636.42	(\$2,151.74) **
Program Expenditures			
Hospitality	47.06	104.69	57.63
Library	29.00	35.00	6.00
Newsletter, Publicity, Communications	134.72	327.37	192.65
All Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL Program Expenditures	\$210.78	\$467.06	\$256.28
Quaker Organization Donations			
New York Yearly Meeting	5,090.00	5,812.08	722.08
Powell House	0.00	0.00	0.00
Purchase Quarterly Meeting	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL Quaker Organization Donations	\$5,090.00	\$5,812.08	\$722.08
TRANSFER to Capital Fund	\$0.00	\$722.00	\$722.00
TOTAL USES OF CASH	\$11,088.94	\$10,637.56	(\$451.38)
TOTAL SOURCES OF CASH	\$3,845.06	\$4,268.74	(\$423.68)
	(\$7,243.88)	(\$6,368.82)	(\$875.06)
** Differentials due significantly to contract timing, though approximately \$500 of heating oil increase due to price.			

Letter from Bronx Children's School

Tuesday, May 15th, was a red letter day for my high school class at Bronx Children's School. Everybody's favorite student, Sarah J., returned to class. One month ago she and her mother and younger sister had fled to a refuge for battered women somewhere in Brooklyn. Her stepfather, a crack cocaine addict, had broken into their house and stolen all the money he could find. Included in his haul, she later told me, was \$100 that she had saved up toward an iPod©.

At the school we were informed the next day what had happened. The assistant principal told me that to preserve their security Sarah would be enrolled in a school in Brooklyn and would not be coming back to BCS. That was a sad day for all of us. Sarah was everybody's friend and my best, or at least my most eager, student. She was the Class President and vice-president of the school chess club. When I fell ill with pneumonia in February she had gathered the signatures of virtually all the students in the school – even those who didn't know me – on a giant Get Well Soon! card.

Sarah had been in the special education 'system' since age 13, when she had stabbed her previous stepfather following several incidents of abuse. No charges were filed against her but she was emotionally damaged and subsequently hospitalized. After two years of psychiatric care she graduated to the next treatment level, the next step back to the world, which is Bronx Children's School. In September she joined my class and quickly impressed me as an outgoing, somewhat emotionally volatile, enthusiastic learner. Like many of the kids here, most of whom have attention deficit disorder to some degree or other, her ability to retain what was taught was poor. Consequently, repetition is key. But repetition is also boring and ADD kids have a low tolerance for boredom. So some way has to be found to make repetition enjoyable if there is to be any chance at all of passing the June exams.

Sarah had inadvertently given me a solution earlier in the year and it was one that thrilled me to experience. Though teaching is secular, I am not and I asked God some time ago to make me a medium through which he could give these kids the advantage of knowledge. Thus I was expecting that a solution would be offered to me. When it was it came in the form of an algebraic equation.

I am not a math teacher but because of the perennial shortage of math teachers in the New York special education system social studies teachers also teach remedial math. It occurred to me a few months ago that math, which to me has always been fairly incomprehensible, could be presented like a magic show. What if you were to take some mysterious equation, like $x + x + 23 = 35$, and promise them that in the next 30 minutes you will know how to solve this? As I hoped, they took the bait and when they realized why $x = 6$, they wanted to know more. Soon, we were dealing with equations like: $10 \frac{1}{4} - 2 \frac{3}{4} = y + 5 \frac{1}{2}$, what is the value of y ? When you see 17 year olds who read at a 5th or 6th grade level solve these equations, the rise in their self-esteem is almost visible. They hadn't realized they were so smart. Moments like that really make a teacher's day.

Sarah led the equations charge, proclaiming herself one day the Math Queen of BCS. So when the school authorities agreed to lay on a special bus for her, from Brooklyn to the Bronx, so she could finish her school year at BCS, the rise in our esteem for the authorities was also nearly visible. That made a positive difference in several fragile lives. This morning was her first day back and the first thing she asked me for was some math homework.

By Christopher Henson

© Copywrite Apple, Inc.

Our Foreign Correspondent—Columbia

The Awá nation, like other indigenous nations, has characteristics that motivated Manfred Max-Neef to propose the Human Development Scale, which gave him the Right Livelihood Award (aka the Alternative Nobel Prize) in Economics. Awá communities live in a relatively small territory near Colombia's border with Ecuador that they can visit without using a motorized vehicle that would separate them from their land. In fact, Awá leaders walk their territory regularly to maintain unity among their people. The Awá population is in the thousands, but they know each other well.

The Awa's system of government exemplifies these close relationships. Each resguardo, or reservation, has its own government, led by a governor, who is a community leader and receives funds from the Colombian government. An Awá is not a number or a statistic for the governors of their resguardos, but a person with a name--a son, a wife, a grandmother, a student, an active member of the community. The contact between community members and governors is direct, rather than guided by papers, files, fingerprints, social security numbers, etc. Contrast this with "Western democracies" where elected officials have little contact with people they represent and justify military invasions with the stated intent of imposing their systems of government on others.

In March 2007, CAMAWARI--the Awa Elders Council of Ricaurte municipality--invited CPT to its Governors' Assembly, held every two months. The Council offered four paid positions during the assembly. The selection process was as follows: 1) Someone provided an explanation of the job; 2) each governor named a candidate from their 'resguardo' 3) governors expressed concerns about candidates and removed those not up to the task; 4) each governor voted for a candidate; 5) the people selected stood to express their gratitude for and commitment to the job.

In a few moments of disagreement, such as when a resguardo's financial decisions came under criticism, the governor in question listened in silence as colleagues took turns expressing their thoughts. He or she then simply explained why the resguardo had made that decision, rather than just responding to the criticisms. Finally, if the explanations were sufficient, the Assembly accepted them; if not sufficient, they looked for corrective actions. In one case, a governor said that his resguardo did not listen to him, and therefore made a decision contrary to decisions of the Assembly. People with more experience and authority then offered to accompany him to convince his community.

While the Awá were resolving their governmental problems, I imagined the difficulties Western democracies would have had resolving them. Filling four positions would have required a months-long search process and at the end, someone with good connections would have been chosen, most likely via corrupt practices involving political quotas, kickbacks and whisky. The discussion about money would have degenerated into accusations, fights, death threats, corruption charges and legal investigations that would later be resolved under the table.

by Julián Gutiérrez Castaño
CPTnet, 5 May 2007

[The ideas expressed here are not necessarily those of Wilton Meeting]

Wilton Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

317 New Canaan Road, Wilton, CT 06897

(203) 762-5669

Web Site: <http://www.wiltonfriends.org>

Co-Clerk: Woody Schempp, Munro Johnson

Newsletter Editor: Ed Shaw 270-9729, WMMNewsletter@earthlink.net

Newsletter Production: Marilyn Atkin, 847-5248

Newsletter Distribution Database: Ed Shaw, 270-9729

Please note: Any editorial comments expressed herein are solely the opinion of the newsletter editor, unless otherwise noted, and are not intended to represent the opinion of Wilton Monthly Meeting.

Editorial

I do not quite know why, but Spring this year seems particularly lush and exciting. Maybe it is the contrast with some of the other things going on in the world that are not so nice. When will Iraq ever end? It seems like the powers at be would like us to stay forever. Can we out do the British? I doubt it.

Deliberations

Dear Friends

Our First Day School year is almost at an end and I would like to thank everyone who has spent time with the children and youth "through the back" since the fall. People have shared books and stories and ministry and songs and freely of themselves as led and it has been a delightful unfolding, with many moments of grace. For example, the week that Anthony brought a book to read about Jackie Robinson was the week that Henry came to Meeting in his full baseball gear - go figure!

The week we shared a story from the First Day closet about "What Is God?" and then drew pictures, the younger Friends blew us away with their creativity. Amelia carefully constructed a beautifully drawn picture frame and then wrote a lyrical description of her encounter with the divine. Wow!

Next First Day is Memorial Day weekend - there is a final opportunity for an adult Friend to step out and be with the children - volunteers please e-mail me at admin@ctfriendsschool.org. Thanks.

On June 3rd First Day School will host our annual Ice Cream Social at rise of Meeting. FDS committee members please call me/e-mail me with your offers of what you can bring on that day so we can co-ordinate the hospitality.

Thereafter there will be no First Day School Program through the summer. Meeting is asked to provide volunteers to be with children during Meeting for Worship. Usually the weather is kind enough for supervised outdoor play. A sign up sheet will be circulated at the Ice Cream Social and available in the kitchen each week thereafter. Please sign up for one First Day through the summer.

Thank you!
Judy Meikle
Clerk First Day School

Our Name

The Newsletter has been named **The Arboretum** in acknowledgement that trees thrive in the Light and, through photosynthesis, use it to convert suffocating carbon dioxide to life-giving oxygen for other life forms. They might serve as a metaphor for Meeting. Trees play a dominant role in the changing appearance of the acres on which the Meeting House rests. Our memorial garden is nestled amongst them. We trust you find the name agreeable.

To receive The Arboretum via email, please join http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WiltonMM_Newsletter/. An archive of previous issues is maintained at www.wiltonfriends.org