



The Arboretum

Wilton Monthly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends Newsletter, Third thru Sixth Month 2008

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

What does membership in our community calls upon us to do? What follows is taken almost verbatim from Britain Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* in the section on membership. Try keeping the "m" in membership lower case and thinking of the group to which the membership applies as a community of faith.

'The Kingdom of Heaven did gather us and catch us all, as in a net,' wrote Francis Howgill in 1663, 'and his heavenly power at one time drew many hundreds to land. We came to know a place to stand in and what to wait in.'

Today membership may not involve putting liberty, goods or life at risk but the spiritual understanding of membership is, essentially, the same as that which guided the 'Children of the Light'. People still become Friends through 'convincement', and like early Friends they wrestle and rejoice with that experience. Membership is still seen as a discipleship, a discipline within a broadly Christian perspective and

our Quaker tradition, where the way we live is as important as the beliefs we affirm.

Like all discipleships, taking an active role in the life of the meeting has its elements of commitment and responsibility but it is also about joy and celebration. It is a way of saying to the meeting that you feel at home, and in the right place. It is also a way of saying to the meeting, and to the world, that you accept at least the fundamental elements of being a Quaker: the understanding of divine guidance, the manner of corporate worship and the ordering of the meeting's business, the practical expression of inward convictions and the equality of all before God. In asking to be admitted into the community of the meeting you are affirming what the meeting stands for and declaring your willingness to contribute to its life.

When early Friends affirmed the priesthood of all

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7th Month, 2008

1st Day Sun	2nd Day Mon	3rd Day Tue	4th Day Wed	5th Day Thu	6th Day Fri	7th Day Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
26 R—First Day School, Gillespie House	7 CFS Board of Directors Meeting	8 [CFS B of D meets First Second Day]	9 [Gillespie House Meeting provides dinner, every 1st 1st Day]	10 Finance, 7:30 pm	11 [Finance meets Thursday before MFWWCFB]	12
13 Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business	14 [MFWWCFB meets every 2nd First Day]	15	16	17	18	19
2017 R—Clerks R—Peace & Service Quaker Inquiry	21 Ministry & Counsel	22 11:30 am Nursery School Committee	23 [Peace & Service meets the third First Day]	24 [M&C meets First Second Day after MFWWCFB]	25 [Nursery School meets 3rd 3rd Day]	26

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 Second Month 9, 2008

Attending: Missy Conrad, Virginia Auster, Munro Johnson, Marilyn Atkin, Virginia Perry, Rich Francis, Becky Bunnell, John Black Lee, Susan Telesco, Michel Loth, Sandy Smyth, Kim Tsocanos, Sean Higgins, Woody Schempp (Clerk), Laura Higgins (Recording Clerk)

Meeting began approximately noon with silent worship. Clerk read the quote above from John 13.

FINANCE

Our attempt to treat all other persons with respect, integrity, and love informs our practice and concerns in all our lives, from close interpersonal relationships to the conduct of meetings for business, to the search for international peace. It may be that we shall find unity in Jesus's simple admonition to "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 13.34 KJV).

Treasurer Rich Francis reported that Meeting has \$35,000 in checking and \$105,000 in capital account. The major obligation right now is our commitment to CFS for closing on White Barn property. Money will be taken from each account to cover that expense.

Rich suggested at some point that Meeting consider contributions (approximately \$21,000 annually) to NYYM vs. contributions to capital account (approximately \$5,000 annually).

Friends feel the need to become more educated about the life and work of NYYM. In the meantime, Woody will contact Deb Wood, Clerk of the Quarter, to find out NYYM's timeline for setting contribution requests and how other Meetings handle contributions to YM.

PEACE & SERVICE

The Wilton Appeal will be finalized at a future meeting, because we do not have the most current revision available.

CFS

Co-head of school Kim Tsocanos reported the March board meeting was cancelled. Next meeting is April and the intent is to close on the property soon after that. The good news is that a number of reports are due to be ready for the April meeting: Auditor's; Changing Our World philanthropic consultants who are working on feasibility study as to where funding will come from; revised estimate of construction costs starting with the theatre renovation first.

Kim asked Meeting to hold the school and this project in the Light. They are continually testing the leadings; now the question is - are they called to move to the White Barn property?

Kim asked Meeting to investigate whether there is a possibility that if the Stamford-Greenwich Meeting property were sold, could the proceeds be used for the White Barn project? In a conversation with Jim Wood, Kim said Jim shared that there is some precedent for proceeds for a property sale to go to a local need.

2008-03-01 Friends asked Laura Higgins to write a letter from Wilton Meeting expressing our sadness that Stamford-Greenwich Meeting has become inactive, and extending friendship, service, and invitation to worship. A copy of the letter will be sent to Christopher Sammond NYYM

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Ambassadors (Continued from page 3)

and Purchase Quarter.

2008-03-02 Friends asked Becky Bunnell, Munro Johnson, and John Lee to meet with the Stamford-Greenwich members and discuss matters that we held in the Light at this Meeting for Business as they feel led.

Meeting closed just after 1:30 PM with the following quote and a short silent worship.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

—*Matthew 6: 28-34, NIV*

Minutes of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Fourth Month 13, 2008

Continuing obedience to the Light increases our gratitude for God's gifts. Among these are an awareness of enduring values, the joy of life, and the ability to resolve problems in accord with divine leading, as individuals or as a Meeting. Under the guidance of the Light, the monthly meeting is enabled to use and transform the aspirations and judgments of its members. This practice helps the Meeting make decisions and face undertakings in a spirit detached from self-interest or prejudice. Basic Quaker testimonies such as equality, simplicity, nonviolence, integrity, and community have arisen from a deep sense of individual and corporate responsibility guided by the Light Within.

Recognizing that God's Light is in every person overcomes our separation and our differences from others and leads to a sympathetic awareness of their need and a sense of responsibility toward them. Friends believe that the more widely and clearly the Light is recognized and followed, the more will humanity come into accord. "Therefore," writes George Fox, "in the Light wait, where unity is."

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Attending: Marilyn Atkin, Virginia Perry, Frances Salant, John Steer, Sandy Smyth, John Lee, Virginia Auster, Sean Higgins, Michel Loth, Susan Tedesco, Munro Johnson, Missy Conrad, Woody Schempp (Clerk), Laura Higgins (Recording Clerk)

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business opened at 11:50 AM with reading above and silent worship.

PEACE & SERVICE

The Wilton Appeal - John Lee gave the background about the Appeal, which is intended to be circulated to other Meetings, Congress, and the public. Friends expressed gratitude to Peace and Service Committee for its long labors.

John felt that the Appeal should be closed with the paragraph "That the U.S. Government shall become more diplomatic in the conduct of its affairs; shall join with other nations to eliminate the causes of war; shall train and deploy peacekeeping teams to assist other countries keep what peace is theirs; and assist the U.N. in its "swords into ploughshares effort" to make our world a kinder, gentler and safer place."

04-01-2008. Friends approved the release of the Wilton Appeal. The Meeting approved the appeal wording as below.

Friends discussed the possibility of organizing a world day of prayer.

PHYSICAL STEWARDSHIP

A work day needs to be scheduled very soon. Woody will contact Michel.

MINISTRY AND OVERSIGHT

Friends were asked to consider a contribution from the Meeting to the Donna Festa Memorial Fund. Donna was our former member Jolene Festa's sister-in-law. The idea was passed to Ministry and Oversight for their consideration and action.

Stamford-Greenwich Meeting is having a specially called meeting on First Day, April 20 at 3 PM to discern what Wilton Meeting can do to assist Stamford-Greenwich.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING

Because Mother's Day always falls on the second First Day of May, Business Meeting for that month will always be held on the third First Day. Therefore, the next Meeting for Business will be 18 May. To close Meeting, Clerk read a short passage from Margaret Fell's diary. Meeting closed just before 1 PM.

The WILTON APPEAL

As QUAKERS (The Religious Society of Friends) we are concerned about human rights and the welfare of humanity. We are also concerned about the violence and terrorism that troubles our world today. We are commanded by God to love one another, and not to kill. We are morally bound by the Golden Rule to do unto others as we would have others do unto us; and to solve our problems without violence. We hold our government accountable to us in accordance with our civil rights as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, and as agreed upon by the United States in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights contained in the Charter of the United Nations.

As a reflection of the Quaker Peace Testimony, we submit the following APPEAL:

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1. That our government must be more humane in the conduct of its affairs. That all people, including our adversaries, must be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve as human beings.
2. That our government must be forthright and tell the truth.
3. That we ask our government to bring our troops home from Iraq, decommission our military bases, remove the wreckage of war from Iraq, and offer Iraq the resources it may need to restore its infrastructure and recover its cultural heritage.
4. That our government shall participate in international peacekeeping efforts, allocate more resources to diplomacy, and help remove the causes of war, e.g., poverty and disenfranchisement.
5. That all prisoners and detainees held by the United States must be given the right to face their accusers and contest the legitimacy of their confinement in a recognized court of law; that prisoners of war shall not be tortured or subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment. These civil rights are guaranteed by the longstanding Writ of Habeas Corpus and the time honored principles of the Geneva Conventions.
6. That our [government](#) must abide by the terms of nuclear test ban treaties and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The U. S. must reduce its own nuclear arsenal, stop its testing of new nuclear weapons, and end the manufacture and use of weapons made from depleted uranium.
7. That the financial committees in Congress restructure our national budget to reallocate some of the almost \$700 billion in the defense budget to fund the costs of health, education and welfare both at home and abroad.

Please give this APPEAL your prompt attention.

GREETINGS to our American Friends

This Document contains advice freely and openly given to the Government of the United States of America in accordance with our civil rights of Freedom of Speech and Religion as accorded to us by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

This ADVICE is being distributed by:

FRIENDS and ATTENDERS
Of the Wilton Quaker Meeting
Religious Society of Friends
317 New Canaan Road
Wilton, CT 06897

If you have information or advice you wish to share with us – please send it to the Peace and Service Committee of the Wilton Meeting at the above address or the (Meeting e-mail address.)

Minutes of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Fifth Month 18, 2008

Attending: Marilyn Atkin, Sandy Smyth, Judy Meikle, Maribeth Becker, Patricia Spoor, Hattie Herman, Veronica Foster, John Lee, Jeff Menoher, Dana Raphael, Sean Higgins, Munro Johnson(Clerk), Laura

Higgins (Recording Clerk)

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business opened at 11:45 AM with silent worship.

Clerk reviewed the agenda.

Nominating Committee

Judy Meikle gave the committee report. On behalf of the committee, she presented the proposed slate of names that will become active seventh month 2008. In accordance with practice, the committee slate will be presented this month and, hopefully, approved next month.

Hospitality is part of Physical Stewardship and that is the reason that Hospitality is not listed separately.

One correction is that Maribeth Becker was erroneously listed on Peace and Service. Her name will be removed. Open items for discernment are the full name of Representative to NYYM and Regina McIlvain's name on Peace and Service, because she no longer lives in the area and cannot contribute to committee's work. Sandy Smyth will be added to First Day School and Physical Stewardship committees.

Westport Council of Churches

Meeting historically has had interfaith positions so our members can participate in the wider faith community. This year the Westport Council of Churches instituted a \$100 membership fee. Meeting is being asked to approve this expenditure.

2008-05-01 Meeting approves the expenditure of \$100 to maintain our membership status in the Westport Council of Churches. Friends approved.

2008-05-02 Meeting wants to deepen the relationship between us and the wider faith communities represented by the interfaith organizations. Therefore, Meeting asks our representative to increase the communication by informing us about the clergy associations' meetings and activities. Friends approved.

Friends spoke to the importance of interacting with other faith groups and the education we receive as a result of interfaith activity. Also, these groups are very interested in Quakerism. Meeting should be mindful of supporting our interfaith representatives.

Ministry and Oversight Contribution

At the Meeting for Business in fifth month, we asked Ministry and Oversight to consider how Meeting could make a contribution to the fund for Jolene Festa's family, who suffered in a severe car crash. Ministry and Oversight will make a contribution on behalf of Meeting with that Committee's discretionary funds.

Meeting closed with silent worship at 12:22 PM.

Minutes of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Sixth Month 8, 2008

Attending: Marilyn Atkin, Judy Meikle, Maribeth Becker, Bob Becker, Patricia Spoor, John Black Lee, Jeff Menoher, Sean Higgins, Munro Johnson, Kim Tsocanos, Winnie Keane, Francis Salant, John Steer, Rich Francis, Woody Schempp (Clerk), Laura Higgins (Recording Clerk)

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business opened at 11:45 AM with silent worship.

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WILTON MONTHLY MEETING

Draft slate 2008 -updated June 07

First person listed on each committee will be responsible for convening the initial meeting of the year and then the committee will choose a permanent clerk

Clerk (1 year)		Ministry and Oversight (3 years)		First Day School (3 year)	
Woody Schempp	857-0563	Diane Keefe 6/09	846-4403	Pamela HoMand 6/09	762 5971
Assitant Clerk (1 year)		Michel Loth 6/09	642 3354	Diane Keefe 6/10	846-4403
Sean Higgins	849-0012	Leslie Chapman 6/10	849-0680	Anthony Dalessio 6/10	438 7067
Recording Clerk (1 year)		Judy Meikle 6/11	325-2334	Lisa Kuller 6/10	4387067
Laura Higgins	849-0012	Munro Johnson 6/11	807 1405	Maribeth Becker, 6/10	853 0764
Treasurer (1 year)		Winnie Keane 6/09	227-0583	Allie Meikle 6/09	325 2334
Rich Francis	227-0320	Dana Raphael 6/10	259 - 5995	Loraine McCurdy 6/11	722- 8116
Recorder				Yolande Goodman - 6/11	219 6394
Laura Higgins	849-0012	Physical Stewardship (3 year)		Sandy Smythe 6/11	
		Munro Johnson 6/09	807-1405		
Auditors (1 year)		Rob Docters 6/09	966-0008		
Diane Keefe	846-4403	Ed Shaw 6/11	270-9729		
open		John Lee - 6/10	966-9669		
		Michel Loth - 6/10	642 3354		
Purchase Quarter Positions (1 year)		Yolande Goodman - 6/10	219-6394		
M&C -Woody Schempp	857-0563	Maureen Jackson(Ex Officio)	762-9425	Helen Gander Friends Nursery	
		Laura Higgins 6/11	849-0012	Virginia Perry 6/10	846-0764
Scholarship -- Woody Scherr	857-0563	Susan Telesco 6/11		Rich Francis	227 0320
		Sandy Smythe 6/11		Marylyn Atkin	847-5248
NYYM Positions (1 year)				Veronica Foster, 6/10	762 5884
Representative -- John Lee	325-2334			Sean Higgins	849-0012
discernment -- Martha Gurvic	838-3433	Finance - 1 yr		2 School Parents	
		Becky Bunnell 6/09	762 2815	Maureen Jackson (Ex Off	762-9425
Nominating (3-year terms starting 8/1)		Marilyn Atkin 6/09	847-5248	Kim Tsocanos (Ex Officio	219-5270
Judy Meikle 6/09	325-2334	Rich Francis (Ex Officio)	227-0320		
Becky Bunnell 8/08	762-2815	Bob Becker - 6/09	853 0764	Connecticut Friends School	
Munro Johnson 6/09	807 1405			Open 6/11	
Virgina Perry 6/08	846-0764	Peace and Outreach (1 year)		Open 6/11	
		Diane Keefe 6/09	846-4403	Fred Dettmer** 6/09	914 738 72
Newsletter / Web		John Lee 6/09	966-9669	Munro Johnson 6/10	807 1405
Jeff Menoher-, newsletter editor		Missy Conrad 6/09	354 2933	Maribeth Becker 6/10	853 0764
Marilyn Atkin, newsletter prt	847-5248	Virginia Auster 6/09	846-9288	Becky Bunnell 6/10	762 2815
Woody Schempp, webmaste	853-9479	Dana Raphael 6/09	259-5995	Kim Tsocanos (Ex Officio	219-5270
				Maureen Jackson (Ex Off	762-9425

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CClerk read an entry from Rufus Jones' *A Call to What is Vital.* Then, he reviewed the agenda.

2008-06-01 Friends approved Susan Medlar's request to transfer her membership to Housatonic Meeting, because she now lives in the area.

Clearness Committee

2008-06-02 Friends approved joyfully the committee's recommendation that Maribeth and Amelia Becker be welcomed as members. A welcoming committee of Judy, Munro, and Sean are appointed

Nominating Committee

Munro Johnson gave the committee report. Nominating handled the discernments that MFB returned to them last month. As a result, a revised slate is being presented at today's meeting.

Kim volunteers to take the New Canaan Interfaith position.

Friends discussed whether members should be called out on the committee slate. In the past because of various situations, non-members have served on committees noted as requiring membership.

2008-06-03 Friends approved the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee.

2008-06-04 At its first meeting, each committee is charged with writing a brief description of its responsibilities. The committee must also choose a Clerk.

2008-06-05 In subsequent years, the Nominating Committee in presenting the slate to Meeting will include the requirements of each committee's membership so the readers can see whether the slate meets Meeting's guidelines. A brief description of the committees' responsibilities will be included with the slate.

Treasurer's Report

Rich Francis distributed a latest 12 month Income/Expense report (June to June). Essentially, cash in matched cash out.

The Long Range Planning expense will be a non-repeat. As well as the transfer to the Capital Fund.

Checking has a balance of about \$34,000, but a \$5,000 payment is owed to NYYM. \$103,000 is in the Capital Fund.

Rich requested that the Meeting change its fiscal year to July 1 through June 30, primarily because the fourth quarter is chaos with tax contributions coming in as late as January.

One open item is the loan to CFS in return for first lien on Hastings Hall. Rich sent the MFB documentation to CFS with directions on what needed to be done. Rich will work with Fred Dettmer to craft the agreement and will bring it to MFB for approval.

2008-06-06 Friends approved extension of the stipulated timeframe in Minute 2008-01-01 for WMM loan to CFS. Meeting extends the deadline to 30 Ninth Month 2008. (30 September 2008).

2008-06-07 Friends approved Meeting change its fiscal year to July 1 through June 30.

Right Relationship between NYYM and FUM

Woody will post on our listserv messages from other Meetings and the 2005 Epistle from the NYYM High School Friends that may be considered as resources for this discussion. This item will be discussed at the next Meeting for Business.

Meeting for Business Schedule

Pending no immediate needs, Meeting will not hold a Meeting for Business in the eighth month (August).

Clerk read from Rufus Jones to close the Meeting. Meeting closed with silent worship at 1:00 PM.

Peace & Service

P&S Co-clerk Diane Keefe wore another hat in Ministry & Counsel and inquired why it was that so few Friends joined us of P&S when we witness at events such as on this last Mothers' Day and for the past four Norwalk Veterans' Memorial Day Parade and on Hiroshima Day for many years. More advance notice was recommended. Winnie Keane offered to take information to the Westport-Weston Interfaith group, and Diane wrote the following: (Please All of You, consider this & respond, also) An Invitation to Co-Sponsor a Hiroshima Day Commemoration on August 6, 2008, a Wednesday evening- For the last few years, Wilton

Friends/Quaker Meeting has sponsored a commemorative event open to the public on Hiroshima Day at Shady Beach, adjacent to Calf Pasture Beach in East Norwalk. It has begun with a potluck dinner at 6 PM. At 7 PM, those gathered formed a circle on the beach. We stood and listened to the annual speech given by the Mayor of Hiroshima to witness to the horrors that occurred at Hiroshima and to turn our attention to prevention of additional nuclear attacks. The evening ended with a few minutes of silent meditation. Afterwards, those present introduced themselves and shared their thoughts. Last year we had planned to have an origami workshop for kids during the dinner hour but were unable to offer that because of a last minute cancellation by the teacher. One year Cablevision covered the event, and local newspapers have sent photographers several times.

This year we want to invite other church communities to co-sponsor and plan this event, as well as work on publicity to broaden the appeal. We are open to a different location and/or a different format. The goal is to draw the attention to the prevention of nuclear war by remembering. Ideas for speakers include Michio Kaku and Jonathan Schell, author of the book Fate of the Earth. Please contact Diane Keefe, Clerk of Wilton Friends/Quaker Meeting Peace & Service Committee at dianekeefe@gmail.com if you are interested in collaborating on the Hiroshima Day event this year.

P&S Cmte. 6th Mo, 2008 Diane Keefe & Virginia Auster agreed to continue as co-clerks. Missy Conrad agreed to be recorder. Also present were John Black Lee, Judy Meikle, Dana Raphael, and a friend who has been visiting for a while sat in for Judy's long presentation with answers and discussion. Judy has attended many local meetings in Norwalk. A recent successful event was Shoot Hoops, Not Guns' all day basketball tournament for middle and high schoolers and for Over 35's. Principal Elaine Lane of Briggs HS applied for an after-school grant so that Judy could facilitate two Basic Help Increase the Peace (HIPP) workshops, based on the Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) but formulated for kids. Work with the NAACP and its President Rev. Lindsay Curtis of Grace Baptist Church on West Ave in South Norwalk has formed a close bond with him. Many other groups are either political or guarding their own turf. Judy sought advice on how to proceed with the practicalities of earning an income, especially for Joy & Allie's education. In addition, Judy is often alone at meetings. In the future, she can post these and call for company on the Wilton

Announcements.

John Black Lee expressed the sentiments of the committee when he questioned the hiatus of the movie program for the summer. Summer is when people have more free time, and Meeting could draw some of them. John has the movie Dr. Strangelove, which would be an appropriate lead up to Hiroshima Day.

John had the Citizens' Appeal that was passed in Business Meeting of Fourth Month/April, but changed some by him after. He does not esteem it to be as good as it should be. The Purchase Quarterly Meeting of Fifth Month/May did

Wilton Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

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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

It is hard to believe that this is my last Arboretum. But I think the time is right, especially since it has been so difficult to publish in the last few months, only part of which was caused by my computer crashing and having to rebuilt it. My thanks to all who made contributions over the years. Perhaps the next editor, Jeff Menoher can do a better job of making this a real community newsletter. I wish him well.

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not receive the approved Minute, so it cannot proceed to New York Yearly Meeting. However, as our Minute, we will publicize it with the call to the Hiroshima event.

As we did once before under the leadership of Jodi Eisman, Friends will register voters at the Sono Arts Festival in Norwalk on the first weekend in August. Volunteers are needed; it's FUN!

P&S tabled consideration of a statement of our goals, although we did discuss them generally, and consideration of the recruitment of high school students for the military. Many Latinos/Latinas are joining. We closed with Silence.

Item: No one has signed up for Gillespie House's Dinner for the the sheltered on July 6.

Respectfully submitted,
Missy Conrad

Clerk's Corner (Continued from page 1)

believers it was seen as an abolition of the clergy; in fact it is an abolition of the laity. All in our community are part of the clergy and have the clergy's responsibility for the maintenance of the meeting as a community. This means helping to contribute, in whatever ways are most suitable, to the maintenance of an atmosphere in which spiritual growth and exploration are possible for all. It means contributing to the meeting by giving time and energy to events and necessary tasks, and also being willing to serve on various regional or yearly meeting committees and other groups. There is a special responsibility to attend meetings for church affairs, for it is here that the meeting enacts its faith. Being part of our meeting community also entails a financial commitment appropriate to a member's means, for without money neither the local meeting nor the wider structure can function.

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