

FRIENDLY CONNECTION

MARCH 2009

Volume 5, No. 3

Rally, dinner to mark Iraq War anniversary

A vigil and a rally to draw attention to the sixth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq will be held on Saturday in Kansas City.

The event, organized by the KC American Friends Service Committee and the KC Iraq Task Force, will be followed immediately by a dinner featuring Iraqi cuisine at the Community Christian Church.



“Though it is widely recognized that there is no

military solution to the Iraq crisis and U.S. presence is delaying necessary political agreements, Iraqis citizens and U.S. troops continue to die,” said Ira Harritt, AFSC director and KC Iraq Task Force co-chair.

“Over 1.2 million Iraqi’s killed; 4,244 U.S. troops have died; U.S. Army suicides up 11 percent to an all-time high in 2008; and six times as many soldiers killed themselves in January 2009 than in January 2008.”

An Iraqi refugee and an Iraq war veteran will speak at the “Peace Race for the Human Race” rally. Music will be provided by the Buttermilk Boys. There also will be vigil/rally activities on the “Peace Race” theme led by members of the KC Iraq Veterans Against the War.

PLANNING TO GO?

RALLY

WHEN: Saturday, March 14, 3:30-5 p.m.

WHERE: Mill Creek Park, 47th and Main streets in Kansas City.

DINNER

WHEN: Same day, 5:30-7 p.m.

WHERE: Community Christian Church, 4601 Main St., Kansas City

COST: \$20

INSIDE:

2 Midyear Meeting
It’s in April, coming soon.
Read about it here.

3 Query
Read what we discussed about Outreach last month. And this month we study “Meeting for Business.”

4 Environmental Committee
Kathy and Larry share their joy of walking.

5 Here & There
A request of help, and a thank-you from the holidays.

6 Books
Discussion of Cornell West’s *Hope on a Tightrope*.

7 Report on reports
Ever wonder how to write a good report? Well, wonder no more.

AND: Karin McAdams’ recipe for Tahini Dressing.

Continued on Page 4

PROGRAMS THIS MONTH

March 1: Meeting
for Business

March 8: Favorite
books

March 15: Query:
Outreach (See Page
3)

March 22: Quaker
Education:

March 29: TBA

PARKING

We had a complaint
from our neighbor to
the north, Audrey
Lambert, regarding
parking.

She was very nice
about it. She asked
that we leave more
space between cars
when we park in
front of her house
and to the north of
her house.

When we park too
tightly she and her
daughter have
trouble getting their
cars out and there's
risk of fender-
benders.

Those of us who
can walk a little
extra distance need
to be aware of this
situation and choose
to park a little further
down the street.

Minutes, Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business

3rd month, 1st day, 2009

Shane Rowse, clerk; Marc Robinson, recording clerk

The meeting began with silence.

The treasurer's report was heard and accepted.

The Ministry and Counsel report was heard. Friends discussed QuakerQuest and financing it. Friends discussed what it is, when to schedule it, and alternatives. The Meeting proposes that we do our own QuakerQuest as part of our yearly retreat, evaluate the result, and then decide whether we need to bring in someone from outside to train us. The report was accepted.

The library report was heard and accepted.

The Peace and Social Concerns report was heard and accepted.

The earthcare committee report was heard and accepted.

The meeting ended with silence.

BUDGET LINE (after February)

- February contributions: \$1,883.95
- Needed per month: \$1,223
- YTD contributions: \$2,654.95

Midyear Meeting is April 25-26

Susan Corson-Finnerty, the publisher and executive editor of *Friends Journal* will present the program at Midyear Meeting this year. The topic? "Reflections on Quaker Service."

The meeting will take place at Bear Creek Friends Meeting near Earlham, Iowa. Check out more information at www.quakernet.org, and complete your registration form.

No fees have been established; however, donations to help offset costs are encouraged. Friends wishing to help with meals are invited to bring fruit.

Call: Herbert Standing, 515-758-2338; Junior Yearly Meeting/Young Friends Midyear co-clerk Jackie Leckband: newharmony@earthlink.net, 515-758-2232.

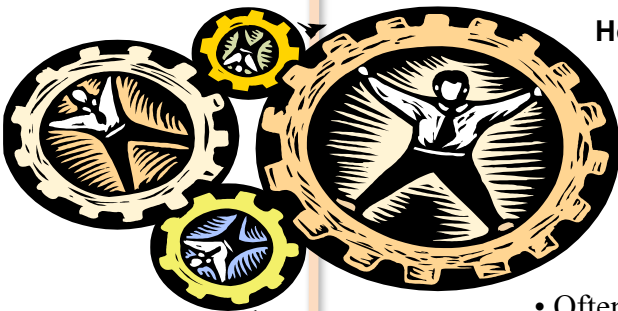
NEXT QUERY: *Meeting for Business*

How can we hold our meetings for Business in the spirit of love, understanding and patient search for unity without becoming frustrated by differences of opinions or the pressures of time?

How do we respond when no one else in the meeting seems to hold the views that we do on an issue? How do we respond to a dissenting minority?

How do we share responsibilities among Friends in our meeting? How do we serve our meetings?

Discussion:
March 15.



QUERY: *Outreach*

Do we encourage intervisitation within the Yearly Meeting and with other Friends?

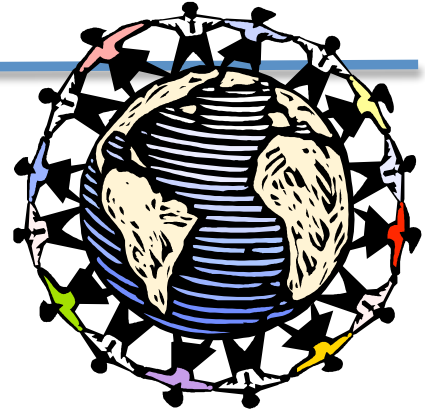
- We need to do more.
- Being at another meeting can remind us of what we need to do, give us new ideas, and help us to appreciate our own meeting.
- Mid-yearly Meeting and Iowa Yearly Meeting are encouraged as they are great opportunities.

What are we doing to share our faith outside our Friends community?

- Sharing our thoughts about Quakerism with others is often easy, as many people are curious about Quakerism.
- Because we feel genuine and unashamed about our beliefs and because these beliefs are very compatible with other faiths, we can share our beliefs with others easily.
- Many people today are hungry for the spiritual but are put off by the doctrines that they see in many religions. Our inclusiveness and simplicity are an opening to others.

How do we speak the truth as we know it but remain open to the truth as understood by others?

- Often it is most important for us to be ready to listen.
- The diversity we find in our Meeting creates a space for us to interface with people from other



backgrounds.

- Our belief that there is that of God in everyone helps us to listen to each person.

In what ways do we cooperate with those with whom we share concerns? How do we reach out to those with whom we disagree?

- We need to listen attentively and respond honestly, without aggression.
- Finding common ground creates openings to reach out to those with whom we disagree.

How do we make the presence of our Meeting known to the broader community? Do we invite others to share in our Meeting for Worship and other activities?

- By trying to live by the Quaker Testimonies we make our presence know, if quietly.

Do we welcome everyone and appreciate the gifts that differences such as race, creed, economic status, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation may bring to us?

- Our way of worship is designed to encourage inclusiveness.
- We often find that we do have trouble with socio-economic and educational class differences.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

The Joy of Walking

We always knew at some point in our lives we would become minor celebrities, we just thought it would be from playing ukuleles and kazoos. Never did we imagine it would be for walking to work! In May of 2008, we moved to a small apartment complex near the St. Joseph Hospital campus. Our walk to work is just shy of one-half mile and – believe it or not – IS uphill both ways. Invariably, walking down the halls of the hospital, sometimes even at lunch, someone will stop us and say, “aren’t you the couple I see walking to work?” This has allowed us a familiarity with a wide range of coworkers we might not otherwise get to engage, which usually leads to interesting dialogues on environmental concerns and ways we can all do our part.

Sitting down and figuring out the savings of that simple walk to work was quite an eye opener. Between the two of us, we are saving approximately 20,000 miles per year, not to mention wear and tear on the vehicles and on our sanity, since we no longer deal with “the dreaded Grandview triangle”.

We get to experience the change of seasons in a very personal way. We see the delicate pinks and blues of the morning light and the fierier reds and deep purples of sunset. We have observed deer along our walk, birds singing, and a very determined spider build a huge web along our path. We started walking as a way to save on fuel costs, but what we found is that there is no better way to start a morning than to connect with nature and each other with a walk and a chat.

— Kathy Weber and Larry Herndon

RALLY and DINNER ...

Continued from Page 1

The dinner, dubbed “Breaking Bread Together: A Dinner with KC Area Iraqi Refugees and Iraq War Veterans,” will begin at 5:30 p.m. and run until 7 at Community Christian Church, 4601 Main. Traditional Iraqi cuisine will be served, prepared by Iraqi refugees and volunteers, and the cost is \$20 per person.

Proceeds from the dinner will be used to assist local Iraqi refugee education and emergency needs, targeting refugees of the Iraq war who are settling in the Kansas City area.

“We hope to raise a small amount of financial aid for educational and emergency medical needs to the refugees,” Harritt said. “One of the under-recognized cost of the war is the heartbreaking impact the war has had on the Iraqi people.”

Harritt said the dinner also will make a statement that people of both cultures — U.S. citizens, Iraqis and war veterans — “can share a meal together in fellowship and harmony.”

Anyone interested in the dinner should RSVP to 816-931-5256 or iharritt@afsc.org. Seating is limited, so don’t delay.

In addition to the rally and dinner on March 14, a candlelight vigil is planned for March 20, the actual anniversary date of the invasion. It will be at the same place as the “Peace Race for the Human Race,” 47th and Main, and it starts at 7:30 p.m.

And don’t forget the Festival for Justice and Peace happens April 25 at UMKC.

THANK YOU FROM GARY & JAY

We were both touched by the wonderful holiday cards that the children made.

It meant so much to Jay. Wish I could give out good news about him, but as with most AIDS people, things turn and change rapidly.

Besides fighting a rash all over his body, we almost had a stroke as well (recently). But thankfully it was something less serious, and he is improving. The spinal rotation has changed again.

We really fought last year for his body cast, but because of the new rotation it no longer is helpful ... and the state will only pay for one every two years.

Sooooo, we carry on. Give Meeting our best, and we think of meeting often. We hold our own first day here at home.

*Thanks again, Gary
Wick*

HERE & THERE

Barb Luetke raising funds to re-print *Hannie*

In 1996, Barbara Luetke-Stahlman wrote a novel for children entitled, *Hannie*, about a hearing girl, her two deaf sisters, and the few deaf students in her hearing, elementary school located near Kansas City.

The story of 12 months of Hannah's life was based on the real life of a real girl, and includes descriptions of her Quaker family, her lesbian friends at Meeting for Worship (in particular, Lydia Moore), and the positive and challenging aspects of living with children who are deaf and sign (i.e. Signing Exact English). The book is now out of print, but there is an opportunity to make it available as a "print on demand" publication for a "set up" cost of \$500.

The book is written for students who read at about the fourth-grade level and includes several family photos. Last year, *Hannie* was chosen by the state of North Carolina to be sent to every school where deaf children are educated, and it was used in a state curriculum about deafness. Barbara Luetke, a current member of Dallas Friends Meeting and Penn Valley Friends, cannot afford to reprint the book without help. But if 20 people made a contribution of \$25, enough funds would be raised.

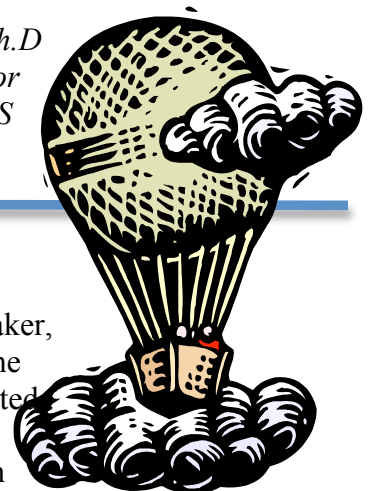
If you are interested, send checks to Barbara Luetke, 203 Oakbrook Drive, Lewisville, Texas, 75057.

Thank you for sharing this request and posting it to newsletters. A decision will be made by April 1.

*Barbara Luetke, Ph.D
Visiting Professor
Deaf Education COMS*

For the curious...

This item from Chloe Wagner: Yes, there is a Quaker, Missouri. Not what might qualify as a town, but the cluster of buildings is technically called a "populated area." It's located in Washington County, at the crossroads of State Highway C and Cubb Road. In case you were really, really curious.



BIRTHDAYS

March

10 – Susan
Timmerman
12 – Kathy Weber
12 – Skyler Pearson
23 – Tim Clanton
26 – Larry Herndon
31 – Fiona Watson
Gowin

GOT YOURS?

Is your birthday on file?
Don't miss out on all the
great benefits you get by
being included in this list!

Contact us today!
garymarx@bcglobal.net

SOCIAL NIGHT

6:30-9 p.m.
March 21.

CLASSIFIEDS

Anyone need an old
school TV? We still have
an extra TV in the
basement. It's a JVC.
Also have a VCR
player/recorder and a
DVD player.
OK, enough acronyms!
The equipment is old,
but everything worked
the last time we had
them plugged in.
Contact Gary.
garymarx@bcglobal.net

PROGRAM REPORT | *Book discussion*

The book discussed recently, in after Meeting program, was *Hope on a Tightrope* by Cornell West, a leading thinker about racial issues.

We discussed quotes from the book such as:

"When you talk about hope, you have to be a long-distance runner ...
Hope linked to combative spirituality is what I have in mind."

There was a lot of discussion about term "combative spirituality."



"How do we radically reform a
system while working within it?
... Who will become the major
agents of social change?"

Discussion centered around
whether Martin Luther King Jr.
worked within the system or
outside of it.

"(Is there) something different
about black America now. They
highlight loss of values ... simple
choices made by individuals, as
though individuals are not shaped by the
larger structural and institutional realities in
our society."

The history of slavery and its continuing legacy were
discussed, as was Jim Crow. Friends mentioned their own cultural
traditions and how they are currently affected or limited by them.
Questions were raised why black people often blame slavery for
current problems and whether they have true freedom to choose things
that are different from the daily cultural influences around them ...
such as disrespecting value of education by some.

No conclusions were attempted by anyone present; issues were raised
in the spirit of Meeting, where each person listened to others as they
tried to react to these quotes.

— Rich Kaufman

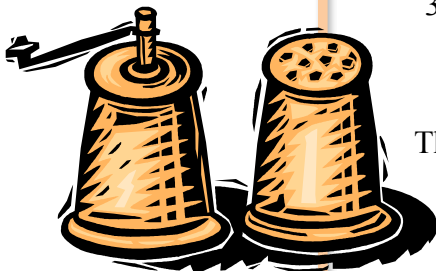
KITCHEN CORNER

TAHINI DRESSING *from Karin McAdams*

¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
 ¾ cup vegetable oil
 ¼ cup red wine vinegar
 ¼ cup fresh lemon juice
 (in a bottle is OK)
 5 garlic cloves, chopped
 ¼ teaspoon Cayenne pepper
 1 ½ teaspoons ground cumin
 1 teaspoon salt
 1 cup tahini
 1 cup water

Blend all ingredients except water in a blender or processor and begin to whirl. Gradually add water until thick and creamy. (I forgot and put it all in at once, and it didn't hurt anything) Refrigerated and tightly sealed, this dressing will keep for several weeks.

*Sundays at the
Moosewood*



A brief but unabridged guide to writing meeting reports

WWGFD (What Would George Fox Do?) if he saw that Meeting reports are being brought in, scribbled on the backs of greasy paper napkins or (worse horror!) given orally in a highly anecdotal manner? Perhaps in his time this wasn't an issue, but Rachel has pointed out (Rachel MacNair, that is) that our Quaker descendants may read these reports, and not only do they need last names, but perhaps a certain consistency of style might make the Quakers of the future think well of us.

Forget for a moment what Rebecca Doe, Clerk of M&C, year 2092, might want. What would you like to know if someone is telling about her or his committee meeting?

First, I suspect you would feel more oriented with a slightly journalistic approach. When did the committee meet? Where (if that information adds color to the report)? Who was there? Last names are good, the first time around at least.

You might like a brief flavor of the discussion. Was there a certain passion about the dilemma of the color of the toilet paper? Even more critically, you will want to know if a decision was reached. Will it be pink (sorry, they don't make that anymore, but it was a hot issue once) or the more simple white? Are there financial considerations that affect the Meeting? Does it cost more from the company whose products are more environmentally sound, for example.

Finally, is a decision required? Chances are, either

1. The committee had the power already to decide on plain white from Seventh Generation, and they are simply announcing that decision *or*
2. The business meeting needs to make the decision here and now, *or*
3. The question is so contentious that you and the rest of those present will want to defer it to next month's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

That may, indeed, be all you want to hear. Usually, the above can be contained in quite a short report and doesn't require any special writing skill. Of course, more creative offerings are always welcome.

— Karin McAdams

