

September 2017



Richland Friends Monthly Meeting  
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## Know Thy Quaker

*This is the first in a continuing series called: Know Thy Quaker, which is our attempt to get to know a bit about each other's lives outside the community of our Meeting. Think of it as an "everything you wanted to know, but hesitated to ask" feature. If you would like us to interview someone, or better yet, if you would like to provide a profile/interview of a member or attender of Richland Friends, please contact Linda Cooper. [quakertowncooper@aol.com](mailto:quakertowncooper@aol.com)*

### Charles & Betsy Meredith

By Zoya Kachadurian

To spend time with Betsy and Charlie Meredith is like having a wonderful meal: tasty, exotic and incredibly satisfying. I was welcomed into their home in Quakertown where Charlie has deep roots. In fact, the entry room of the Meredith home is a lovingly reassembled room from one in his grandfather's home!



While Charlie was born in Reading, PA before the family moved here, Betsy's birthplace was more exotic; Kobi, Japan, where her father was working for General Motors. The family moved when she was 5, but Betsy returned to share Japan with Charlie on their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

As a young girl, Betsy wanted to be an actress. She got the bug working as an apprentice at the Bucks County Playhouse during its golden age,

spending time in the homes of and at parties with Helen Hayes, Moss Hart, and Rodgers and Hammerstein, among many.

In spite of the fact that Betsy had earned her Actors' Equity union card, her mother pressured her to stop.

Charlie is a third-generation newspaperman. Grandfather Charles Meredith Sr. bought the Perkasio Central News, became a Bucks County Sheriff and lived with his family at the prison (now Michener Art Museum). After his year term, he bought the Quakertown Free Press. He had wanted Quakertown to be the county seat, so he brought 4 huge pillars from Vermont, dragged them down the main street in a horse drawn rig and had them installed at the paper's building on Broad Street where they still add majesty to the town center.

Like his family, Charlie also became deeply involved in local politics and was a Bucks County

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Commissioner at age 32. When his father died, Charlie opted for the newspaper business full time. But his finger remained on the pulse of local and state politics as he does to this day in his weekly column in the Bucks County Herald.

Betsy and Charlie met at the University of Pennsylvania when he was attending the Wharton school, and she was working for the Penn Medical School and the Hospital. In WWII, when three of Penn's doctors were sent to Burma to set up and run an army hospital, their three wives who were also doctors, and our Betsy ran the medical school and hospital.

Although Betsy had been dating one of Charlie's fraternity brothers, true love found its way and after six months of dating Charlie the couple married and eventually had three children.

The Merediths told me of some of their wonderful experiences touring the world at the height of Charlie's publishing career. They got to know and sometimes travel with fellow publishers Kathryn Graham, of the Washington Post, (often Betsy's tennis partner), Rupert and Dame Elizabeth Murdoch as well as President Ronald Regan and celebrities like Dolly Parton!

Charlie's grandfather was a birthright Quaker and a member of Gwynedd Meeting. Back in the 1890's, when he fell in love with a Baptist woman, he was given the choice to marry a Quaker or be read out of Meeting. He chose his love, Ida Jane Moyer and was read out of Meeting.

Our Charlie learned that a former member of Darby Meeting, John Bartram, had been read out in the 1750's because he didn't understand the Holy Trinity and doubted its validity. 20 years ago, his family successfully petitioned Darby Meeting to reinstate Bartram posthumously.

Armed with this precedent, Charlie petitioned Gwynedd Meeting to likewise reinstate his Grandfather. He received a letter saying Gwynedd would think about it. As we know Quaker process can be painfully slow. They are pondering it! Betsy was introduced to Quakers as a young child.

In the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, her mother encouraged Betsy to go to Solesbury Meeting where they had music at Rise. Betsy played piano there. In fact, she showed me a Quaker hymn book which had her favorite: *Follow the Gleam*. Music is so important to Betsy that Charlie's beautiful singing voice was one of the things that attracted her to him.

She and her family had been highly involved in the Reformed Church of Christ. Eventually, finding the Pastor a tyrant, Betsy quit and marched down the street to join Richland Meeting. She found the silence heavenly and loved that it had no pastor.

When I asked about some memories (cherished or otherwise) from our Meeting's past, Charlie mentioned how in the 1700's McCool's (still a favorite town restaurant and pub) was run by a Member of RFM. Of course, the Meeting was not happy with him helping get people drunk and eventually read him out of Meeting.

The Merediths, like many of us, worry that Richland Friends isn't attracting more people, and that we are missing opportunities to gather thoughts... even conflicting ones from visitors. In addition, Charlie supports strengthening our relationship with United Friends' School to help grow our First Day School program.

The time flew by during my visit and it was with regret that I took my leave of this delightful couple who have so many interesting stories to tell.

So we made plans to get together soon.

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## **Memorial Service for Lisa Adams**

Richland Friends hosted a memorial service for my wife Lisa Adams, who passed on recently due to cancer (melanoma), on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. We were hoping to get 100 people out; it was close to 200 that attended!

It was a beautiful service, with many people of all ages standing up to share their love for Lisa and stories, some funny, some poignant. Kylie, Brian and I can't find words to express our gratitude for what the Meeting did for us. We basically suited up and showed up, with very little else that we had to do. The food was great, and it truly felt like a celebration.

~~~Bob Adams

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## **Reaching out to Charlottesville and Holding Victims in The Light**

Friend Kim Landon Googled and found that Charlottesville has a Friends Meeting and used its email link to let them know our meeting was holding in The Light the families of those injured and killed. She received this response:

Hi Kim,

We, too, are holding the families in the Light. Yesterday was very difficult. Charlottesville Friends held a Meeting for Worship in a downtown park, and several of us worshiped in our meetinghouse in the afternoon. Some Friends served as marshals in the park, and some served as medics. Some marched with city clergy, some sang on the steps of a protected church. Today we are all tired, of course, and still discerning our way forward.

It is incredibly helpful to know that Friends elsewhere are with us in the Spirit. Please send our greetings to your meeting, and thank them. If we have other needs, I certainly will be in touch.

In Peace, Susan Beers Presiding Clerk, Charlottesville Friends Meeting

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Friend Donna Berger sent us this comment by Cornell West of Harvard Divinity School referring to the Charlotte events:

"We gotta keep fighting. Keep the love in it. Keep sacrificing for justice. The only thing that fundamentally breaks the back of fear is love. Justice is what love looks like in public. Be on the love train. Fight for justice. Stand up and grow up. Stay woke and stay fortified."

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## Richland Friends Youth First Day School Program

The Youth First Day School committee has spent much of the summer getting organized and preparing a curriculum for the coming school year. We will be studying the life, work and words of Jesus. The lessons will be age-related for our kids, depending on who arrives for the class each First Day. The concept of the program is that the life and influence of Jesus is fundamental in all Christian churches and is an important part of our learning about the world's religions and ways of worship.

The curriculum is partly based on the Friends General Conference's Faith & Play which is a story-based curriculum focused on building spiritual community with children and offering them images and language to express their wonder and experience of the Divine.

Faith & Play stories include Quaker faith, practice and witness, as well as some Bible content told in ways that reflect Quaker sensibilities.

The religious education classes will be led by Linda Cooper, every other FD and the related activities classes will be led by Gina Frederick on the other FDs, both with the assistance of another leader on the FDS team.

Here is a short outline of what will be covered through the end of this year.

### September

The Annunciation and the Visitation and Birth of John the Baptist. Mary is visited by an angel and is told she will have a child to be called Jesus who is the son of God. She leaves on a trip to visit her cousin, Elizabeth who is soon to give birth to John the Baptist who will later baptize Jesus.

### October

Joseph and his dreams and the census. Joseph has a dream that Mary will give birth to the son of God. Mary and Joseph set on a journey to Bethlehem to participate in the census.

### November

The birth of Jesus and the celebration in many religions. An overview of different ways of celebrating this Christian celebration and preparation to the field trip to St. Isidore's.

### December

The Roman Catholic Church and a field trip to St. Izzies. We will need extra adults on this trip to help with transportation and chaperoning. There are services at 9am and 11am. We will be contacting the church to make arrangements.

*We invite all the children of RFM and their friends to join us each First Day at 10:15 in the Schoolhouse. At about 11:15 after a snack we join the adults for the last bit of Meeting for Worship.*

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## **RFM Group Photograph Day September 17**

Every hundred years or so, all of Richland Friends Meeting Friends try to gather together at Rise of Meeting in the beautiful Autumn sunshine to pose for a photographer to create yet another historic record of our lovely shiny faces!!

The time has come again!! In just two weeks on September 17, please plan to gather under the direction of Larry Jalowiec, famous photographer, and cluster, cluster, cluster in front of the Meetinghouse to pose for all posterity.

## **Richland Meeting Calendar**

**Light Group Guided Meditations**, open to the public at 7pm every Wednesday

**First Day Adult Discussion Group**, 9:45 AM every Sunday in the Schoolhouse  
Classes are based on current Friends Journal articles

**First Day School** for children and teens, 10:30AM every Sunday in the Schoolhouse

**RFM Meeting for Business** is held every Second Sunday at Rise.

**Food for Friends** is every 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays each month at 6pm in RFM Schoolhouse. Please let Donna Berger know if you want to head up this meal, cook, or can just help set up, serve and clean up. Please contact Donna at : [deelee44@ptd.net](mailto:deelee44@ptd.net) or 610-346-9708 if you can help.

**The Richland Book group** will reconvene on September 22 at the home of Barbara Zucker, 1070 Bordeaux Lane, Pennsburg. Here's some summer reading: the book to be discussed will be *Everybody's Fool* by Richard Russo.

Please let Barbara know if you will be attending: [BJZFDZ@aol.com](mailto:BJZFDZ@aol.com)

## **RFM Care Village**

The Care and Worship Committee has established an RFM Care Village, in order for each member or attender to have an opportunity to fulfill a need for another member or attender. C&W has created a form to offer help or ask for assistance. Forms are available from Beth McGlinchey and are on the information table in the Meetinghouse. Friends can check off the area/s that they feel they can be helpful in providing assistance to others.

Caring for each other takes many paths, and this could be one of them. Please consider what you might be able to do for a Friend.

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## Queries: Quaker Food for Thought

Rooted in the history of Friends, the Queries reflect the Quaker way of life, reminding Friends of the ideals we seek to attain. While the text of the Queries has changed somewhat over the years, it has been marked by consistency of convictions and concerns within Friends testimonies. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice includes twelve Queries. Most meetings consider one Query each month during worship and meetings for business. Each Query consists of two sections: one pertaining to the corporate life of the meeting; the other pertaining to individual reflection. Many meetings read the Query aloud during a meeting for business each month and set aside time for corporate discernment and reflection. We at Richland read them at our Monthly Meetings for Business and publish them in our newsletter as well.

### The Ninth Query: Outreach

What are we doing as a Meeting to communicate our presence and our principles to the community around us? Does our Meeting's ministry of outreach lead Friends to share their spiritual experiences with others?

What are we doing to invite persons not in membership to attend our meetings for worship and to encourage their continued attendance? How does the Meeting welcome visitors? Are we sensitive to the needs and hesitations of each visitor?

Are we tender to the needs of isolated Friends and Meetings, and to nearby Meetings seeking support?

How do I ground myself in the understandings of my faith? Am I clear about my beliefs? How do I prepare myself to share my faith and beliefs with others?

Does my manner of life as a Friend attract others to our religious society?

Do I seize opportunities to tell others about the Religious Society of Friends and invite them to worship with us?

Is my manner with visitors and attenders to our Meeting one of welcome?

In what ways does our Meeting respond to opportunities to join with other faiths in worship, in social action, and in spiritual dialogue?

How does our Meeting encourage its members to seek opportunities to meet and work with Friends world wide?

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From our Treasurer Lori Flaherty

**Quick Look Cash Flow For the Month of June 2017**

|                                                   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Cash Inflows, (Donations, Investment Income)..... | \$7,577.95 |
| Cash Outflows (Expenses) .....                    | \$2,996.26 |
| Net Cash Flow.....                                | \$4,581.69 |

**Friend's Events**

Carol McCoy's husband Mark McCoy will be having an art show opening at The Community of Rockhill Art Gallery on Saturday September 16, from 2 to 4 pm.  
The gallery is located at 3250 State Road, Sellersville, PA 18960. Please join the party!



In the Mountains, 2007

**Communicating with RFM Committees**

Carol McCoy, clerk for the Communication Committee can be reached at [peacefulpaws@verizon.net](mailto:peacefulpaws@verizon.net) and at 215-622-1843 for any RFM communication inquiries or event items  
The communications committee is looking for Friends who are Facebook-friendly to help administer our Facebook account. Please contact Carol if you can help

For Meeting for Business reports or items for the agenda, please send to Clerk Jack Schick at [Rfmclerkofmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:Rfmclerkofmeeting@gmail.com) and copy to Amy Bryan, Recording Secretary at [rfmminutes@gmail.com](mailto:rfmminutes@gmail.com).

For submissions to the monthly Pot Luck Press, please send to Linda Cooper, [quakertowncooper@aol.com](mailto:quakertowncooper@aol.com) and put PLP in the subject line

Note that the PLP is your newsletter and your words, photographs, thoughts, advice and wandering musings are all material for articles!

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## Ways to Help Those In Need in Our Community

1. 'Food for Friends Dinners. Always needs volunteers to help. Contact Donna Berger at [deelee44@ptd.net](mailto:deelee44@ptd.net) or 610-346-9708.

We need 2 or 3 more people to help monitor the meals when other groups cook and host. That requires coming at 5pm on Wednesdays and checking that all is in order and cleaned up, then staying to be sure there are no emergencies or unusual happenings that need attention from someone from RFM. Also, if the host group is short volunteers, you can pitch in and help them.

We also need enough helpers when it is our turn to host and cook for FFF. The more help there is, the faster we get done and the easier the work load. There have been a few times when there were not enough helpers. If you can, let Donna know if you can help, (many thanks to those who are already very good about it) it would be greatly appreciated. Ten helpers for each meal is ideal.

2. Quakertown Food Pantry. Soon it will be time to begin buying Holiday Boxes at Giant

Look for the displays in November and December. You purchase them at the check-out , usually for \$10.00, and the store holds them for QFP volunteers to pick up. These are very helpful and save a lot of work and time for the volunteers because they are prepacked and easy to store compared to bags of food.

QFP hours: M-W-F 10 am to 1 pm; TUES.-TH. 6 pm to 8pm. Phone: 215-536-0240

3. Outreach Care. Started by Joanne Cramer and a few of her fellow volunteers from the Food Pantry. They help find shelter, jobs, clothes, and other resources for the homeless in our area. Donations to this 501c3 charitable organization can be sent to:

Outreach Care  
P.O. Box 164  
Quakertown, Pa 18951

Outreach Care also always need volunteers for various things like driving, writing thank you notes, office work, computer work, and helping clients fill out applications. For more information visit them on Facebook or their website.



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