

**Gainesville Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
9 Tenth Month 2011**

ATTENDING: Sybil Brennan, Jen Cotter, Mona Morris, Bill Mitchell, Jean Larson, Connie Ray, Tim Ray, Laura Winefordner, David Chalmers, Walter Morris and Tim Fogarty, Acting Clerk, Jean Chalmers; Recorder, Betty Odum

Meeting opened with worship.

The Minutes of eighth month were read and approved with corrections.

The Minutes of ninth month were read and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Bill Mitchell:

General Fund Balance: \$8,795.23

Contingency Fund Balance: \$20,000.

NEW BUSINESS:

The clerk read a letter from Putney Vermont Friends Meeting introducing Lucy Marsh, hoping we will welcome and nourish her. She is here in school at Five Elements Academy of Acupuncture. Lucy is looking for students for her practice. The letter is attached to these minutes.

The Christmas party will be held on Dec. 11. There will be a children's program after meeting for worship, lunch and then singing.

Cleaning and greening (putting up decorations) is already set for Dec. 10. The hospitality committee is in charge.

The possibility of a parents' afternoon out for shopping was referred to the hospitality and first day school committees.

A decision on an alternative time for the business meeting was referred to the hospitality committee.

Meeting House Committee by Jean Larson:

A workday is set for Oct 15 from 9-noon. Jen Cotter will put out an email to notify the meeting.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE by Mona Morris:

The party for our new member, Tim Ray was referred to the hospitality committee.

AD HOC BUSINESS MEETING COMMITTEE: The committee will meet again in November, and will report to the Nov 13 business meeting. Members are Annie

McPherson, clerk; Gary Arthur, Don Smith, Laura Winefordner, Jim Morrison and Mona Morris.

MINISTRY AND NURTURE COMMITTEE REPORT by Connie Ray:

Plans are to have outreach tables at various upcoming events, such as Santa Fe College, the Gay Pride Fest, and UN day. More volunteers are needed.

An informational discussion on Quaker Quest will be held on November 6. M & N is considering whether or not to recommend taking it on as a project.

2011.10.36 Gainesville Friends Meeting approves the memorial minute for Helen Virginia Westie Wetterholt (1918-2011).

The minute is attached.

NEWSLETTER / WEBSITE COMMITTEE REPORT Given by Jen Cotter:

There are 23 members on the Meeting's Facebook Page.

The blog post on the first page of the meeting website is used to enter comments.

An archive for memorial minutes is on the M & N Committee site.

Any committee can archive items through a link on that committee's page.

Jen will lead a tutorial on the website, to be held January 29. At least one member from each committee is encouraged to come.

Tim Fogarty is investigating internet access for the meeting house.

Jen Cotter was commended for doing a spectacular job of producing a high-quality newsletter.

Meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Odum, Acting Recording Clerk

ADDENDUMS:

Memorial Minute Helen Virginia Westie Wetterholt February 5, 1918—May 9, 2011

A long-time resident of Empire, Michigan, and the Leelanau Peninsula, Helen was born at home in Dodgeville, Michigan, to Hjalmar Ojala Westie and Anna Sandell Westie. Part of a large Finnish family, she took great pride in her Finnish heritage. She spent her childhood in Dearborn and Rapid City and picked cherries during the Depression on the Old Mission Peninsula.

Helen was a 1936 graduate of Fordson High School in Dearborn. She went on to attend the University of Michigan from 1936 to 1940, receiving a teaching certificate. She married George J. Wetterholt in 1943. Helen was a beloved English teacher in Michigan, and later in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Sometime after that she had a catering business in California and was for years a housemother for the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority at the University of Florida.

She especially enjoyed teaching seventh grade at Friends Central School in Philadelphia. It was during her time there that she developed her Quaker beliefs and spirituality. She regularly attended Quaker meetings in Gainesville, becoming a member on March 18, 1984. The first mention of her in the meeting records of 1984 is that she was on the Library Committee. In the late '80s she played an active role on the House and Hospitality Committee.

Helen was passionate about literature, music, and the arts. She often quoted poetry, attended classical music events, or spent her time writing. Though a teacher, she was a journalist at heart. In retirement she was a contributor to the Glen Arbor Sun, penning vivid accounts of life in northwestern Michigan. She also published a memoir and collection of stories titled *Put Me in the Kip*.

Helen, who loved languages, traveled the world with George, and later with her many friends, nieces, and granddaughters. She is fondly remembered as “The Bumble Bee” because of her frequent travels in the U.S. and abroad. She easily made friends worldwide, especially in Europe. Her writing talent made her an avid correspondent with family and overseas pen pals.

In May, in Empire, the trilliums bloom, and the Morel Mushrooms and Asparagus Festival are held. Helen never missed this cooking competition. It often saw her submitting entries in more than one category; for example, making a delicious hors d'oeuvre or a main dish of asparagus. An ardent competitor, she experimented with her entry for weeks in advance. Then she'd say, “Oh, it's nothing. I just whipped up this idea.” Her eyes sparkled as her presentation was to be judged. Out on the Empire street benches she sat greeting relatives, friends, and strangers alike.

Her A-frame doll house was charming, comfortable, filled with her animal friends and trinkets from a life's travel experiences. Helen was kind and humorous—everyone's grandmother type—a person who welcomed strangers as if they were family. She was a wonderful conversationalist, storyteller, and letter writer. At Meeting for Worship she occasionally shared a poem she had composed.

Helen spent her retirement years in Empire near her beloved brothers, Charles and Frank, and their families, while wintering in Gainesville. On one of her last visits, she

took the opportunity to thank Gainesville Monthly Meeting for her many friendships here. In turn, the meeting thanked her for being a valued part of the Friends community. More recently, she lived at the Glen Eagle Retirement Home in Traverse City, where she died peacefully on May 19th, 2011. Fittingly, her passing occurred during her favorite Michigan season, while the trilliums were in bloom. A celebration of her life was held on July 17, 2011, at the Empire Town Hall.