

Hospitality Committee Annual Report 2020

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

The Hospitality Committee strives to make visitors feel welcomed and to foster community within the meeting. Specifically, the Committee serves to:

- greet attenders and welcome visitors to meeting
- manage monthly potluck
- assist CYRE with the mid-December Christmas party
- Help plan memorial services at the Meeting

Members of the committee: Returning members are Annette Broadwell, Buzz Borchardt (clerk), Gwyn Hein, and Hart Pillow. New members this year are Ben Ray, Gordon Davies, Jennifer Leeman, and Quaker Harmon. And we always appreciate and enjoy John Hite's presence when he sits in on our meetings.

In November we were saddened to lose the services of Lori Khamala and Jessica Harper. We greatly appreciated Lori's energy and enthusiasm, but the joys of parenthood and a new job left Lori insufficient time to participate. And Jessica accepted a job as Clinical Social Worker at the Julian Keith Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center in Black Mountain. We wish her the best and thank her for her willingness to serve. And just this week we were further saddened to learn that Gwyn Hein's travels make it impossible for her to continue on the committee. We thank her for her contribution and especially enjoyed the fact that Gwyn's daughter, Cecily, often came with her Mom to help at potluck. Thanks particularly to the dedication and enthusiasm of the remaining members, the reduced committee continues to carry out its mission. And we are cheered to learn that Betsey Fenhagen has agreed to join the committee in July, and she has generously volunteered to begin helping with greeting even before becoming an official member.

Greet attenders and welcome visitors to meeting: Each Sunday a member of Hospitality arrives early for 11 o'clock worship to greet attenders, welcome visitors and invite them to sign the guest book. Visitors who leave their email address are added to the listserv to receive our weekly enews. Visitors who leave their mailing address are sent a card welcoming them to our meeting along with a copy of the pamphlet "Welcome to the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting" from Ministry & Worship and the booklet "Silence and Speech" from Quaker Press. Hart Pillow has done a marvelous job sending out these welcome cards—more than 40 of them— which she writes by hand to be more personal. Hart provides her contact information inviting the recipient to let her know if they want to be contacted by a member of Meeting. When one such recipient responded affirmatively, Jeff Brown kindly offered to meet with the visitor. And we thank Matt Drake, Jennifer Leeman, and Tom Munk for volunteering to be available to meet with visitors who accept our invitation for contact. We also thank Annalee Harkins who continues to use her creative talents to provide us her hand-made welcome cards even after leaving the Hospitality Committee.

We continue to host fellowship after worship where we can provide a welcoming place for visitors to connect with Friends and where all attenders can connect with each other. In order to support fellowship after meeting among Friends and to provide a welcoming place for visitors, we continue the tradition of providing light healthy snacks and tea and coffee after meeting. This year, thank you to Annette, we have added freshly brewed coffee to the instant coffee and tea options.

The Committee plans to reinstitute newcomer teas for recent visitors, new members, and some experienced Friends. This is a work in progress.


Manage monthly potluck: First Sunday potluck continues being an enjoyable activity and does much to foster friendly connections among members. The Committee purchases supplies, sets up and cleans up, and generally oversees potluck. But we certainly do not do it alone. We particularly appreciate John Hite's continuing to set up tables and chairs beforehand, and we greatly appreciate the help of all the attenders who assist with set up and in the kitchen, and particularly those with strong backs who put the tables and chairs away after potluck. Thank you to Ben for also putting away tables and chairs and doing the final vacuuming and other clean-up after the post potluck games

We have continued the use of compostable plates that was instituted last year, and members on the committee and those who help with the dishes are pleased with the efficiency of this move in terms of time as well as the greater degree of sanitation it provides over hand washing.

Assist CYRE with the mid-December Christmas party: Committee members help with set-up and clean-up, and the Committee provides paper plates, napkins, beverages such as eggnog and hot cider, and table decorations for the Christmas potluck. Special thanks to Jennifer, Hart, and Quaker for handling the Christmas party while the Hospitality clerk was visiting his new grandson in Georgia—by all reports the party was a success.

Help plan memorial services at the Meeting: A representative from Hospitality participates with Care and Counsel in working with the family to plan any reception following a memorial service that is held on the grounds of the meeting. We thank Jennifer Leeman for volunteering to be our representative from Hospitality.

Other news: This past November the Committee decided not to ask for volunteers to share their Thanksgiving dinner with members who are without a local family to be with. The year previous we had no volunteer hosts and two would-be guests who fortunately found other venues for Thanksgiving. The year before that we had neither hosts nor guests. Perhaps we can identify a more successful way to observe Thanksgiving in the future.

One novelty this year for the Hospitality Committee was putting much of our committee information on the chapelhillfriends.org website. The Hospitality webpage there contains links to committee agendas, minutes, calendar, budget, potluck and Christmas party information, instructions for greeting, and other committee information. Buzz is grateful to Sean Chen for his immense patience in bringing him into the 21st century of web development to do these web pages, and to Finn James for creating the initial page that is the entry point for Hospitality information. To access the web page, go to *Committees* on our website and click the page icon next to *Hospitality*. 

Finally, some members of our Committee have met with the Library Committee in discussing plans for renovating the library. Many of the thoughts about the library from a hospitality perspective came from a couple of years of thought and experimenting with what best supports fellowship after meeting. Items of agreement were written up and formed the basis of discussion with the Library Committee.

Respectfully submitted: Buzz Borchardt (clerk), Annette Broadwell, Ben Ray, Gordon Davies, Gwyn Hein, Hart Pillow, Jennifer Leeman, Quaker Harmon