

The Clerking Corner: FGConnections

By June Etta Chenard

The recent issue of Friends General Conference's publication, *FGConnections*, is devoted to 'Friends & Clerking.' It is easily available, and its articles and resources are varied and well-done. This will, therefore, be the last clerking article, since Friends now probably have all the printed resources they need.

The first article of 'Friends & Clerking' is called "What's In It for Me? The Single Most Important Question Any Clerk Can Ask" by Arthur Larabee, who teaches the clerking workshops at Pendle Hill.

The next article is by Marty Grundy, well-known to many Canadian Quakers, and it is on the topic of "Recording".

Becky Phipps recounts "A Vignette," followed by "Thank You," written by Deanna Boyd.

Deborah Haines offers us "A Practical Mystic's Guide to Committee Clerking."

"Reflections on Being Clerk of a Small Meeting" is authored by Brian Drayton.

Next, Trudy Rogers, writes an account of "Hearts and Minds Prepared"; Marian Beane follows with "Thoughts on Clerking"; next, an article on "Youth Quake: Broadening My Quaker Horizons" by Casey Kashing; followed by teenager Jerry Hrechka's "Experiences of the Light from All Different Spectrums."

This exciting and informative collection includes an enclosed supplement that has a short list of available resources about clerking that are in print. In addition, a comprehensive list of resources for clerking (both in print and out, including many articles from journals) will be posted on the FGC website in the Quaker Library section: <www.fgcquaker.org/library>.

The Quaker Press of FGC is also considering publishing a handbook about clerking. You can help them decide by letting them know if you need such a resource for yourself and/or your meeting. Send your message to: <barbarah@fgcquaker.org> or to: Quaker Press of

FGC, 1216 Arch Street, 2B, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

The FGConnections is available for no charge, even for multiple copies for use in workshops and classes. It is also available on the website: <www.fgcquaker.org>.

PS: If you look carefully at the photos, you can find familiar faces: Gabriel Gosselin, Gordon McClure and Liz Kamphausen, among others. 🐞



THE SCARAB

In ancient Egypt, it is said,
They often placed beside the dead
Scarabs, whether carved or real,
To be there when the dead must kneel
Before their judge, to show the soul
And represent it pure and whole.
Another scarab rolled the sun
Across the sky when night was done.
What does the scarab mean to me
Now that I am quit and free
Of struggle, urgency and strife
In these, my closing days of life?

It rolls its ball of shit and mould
Which somehow looks like glistening gold
Across the day from dawn to dusk
With nothing strange or odd or brusque
Except perhaps the car won't start.
O scarab beetle of my heart
Forget those many younger days
When me myself I did amaze
With many spurts of good and evil,
Uncertain whether angel or devil.

All emotions are fleeting and brittle.
I have found peace with my pet dung beetle.

*Barbara J. Bucknall is a member of Pelham
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