

**ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:**  
**WELCOMING NEWCOMERS**

During the past several months the Advancement Committee has recommended, and the Meeting has approved, a number of steps for welcoming newcomers to our Meeting. People who are new to Scarsdale Meeting usually have many questions. The information provided below is to make it easy to answer these questions, as well as offer a step-by-step process on how we all can warmly welcome newcomers and help them understand the different aspects of our Meeting. Advancement Committee would like to share these steps, in the hope that *everyone* can join us in welcoming new people to Scarsdale Friends Meeting

**A. Information about the Meeting**

1 Meeting for Worship will now be at 11:00 am every Sunday, so that newcomers interested in attending can easily know the time

2 Business cards with information about the location, time and website of the Meeting and a short description of Meeting for Worship are available on the pamphlet shelves outside the Meeting room. These can be handed out at events and everyone is encouraged to carry a few in their pocketbook or wallet in case they meet someone who expresses an interest in attending a Quaker Meeting!

3 The web site has information about the Meeting: its activities and concerns. Anyone who "Googles" topics of interest to Quakers can link to the web site.

4 Our telephone has a welcoming voice mail message which invites the caller to attend a Meeting for Worship and gives a telephone number to call if they need additional information.

5 There is to be a new Meeting sign on Popham Road that provides information on the time of Meeting for Worship

**B. Greeting the Newcomer**

1 There is an FGC poster outside the Meeting room on Sundays, describing Meeting for Worship.

2 The Greeter will hand newcomers a "Welcome Card" which describes Meeting for Worship as well as Quaker beliefs and testimonies.

3 If there are newcomers, at rise of Meeting the Greeter will do the following:

1. Ask everyone present to introduce themselves;
2. Ask members of Ministry & Worship to identify themselves so that newcomers can ask them questions during Social Hour;
3. Ask the newcomers to sign the Guest Book
4. Invite newcomers to take pamphlets from the shelves outside

the Meeting Room.

(continued)

4 During social hour all of us are encouraged to be attentive in welcoming the newcomer/s and engaging her/him in conversation. ? If there was a message during Meeting for Worship that Friends which to discuss further, we could form a circle by the piano and invite the newcomer to join in.

5 As soon as the internet connection is operable we will have a laptop at social hour to be used to update the calendar and introduce the newcomer to the website as a source of information.

### **C. Follow-Up**

1 Advancement Committee will be responsible for sending a follow-up letter to newcomers with additional information on Quakers.

2 When it seems appropriate, Advancement and Ministry & Worship will host a small group discussion based on the pamphlet "Exploring Quakerism."

3 Advancement will consider the needs of newcomers on an ongoing basis: e.g. if they need child care during Meeting for Worship, inviting them to small groups such as the Women's or Men's group etc.

4 Advancement will provide a number of pamphlets on Quakerism on the shelves outside the Meeting Room for newcomers.

5 Everyone is asked to consider the question, "*What Do Quakers Believe?*". This is frequently a question asked by newcomers. To provide some possible responses, a short list prepared by Mary Snyder summarizing her view of what Quakers believe was distributed to the SFM email list.