

Community Meeting held at Rolling Ridge Midwinter on Sunday, Jan 15th, 2006

Program Update

This year's theme was chosen in Canada in October. It is Memories and Dreams—Leaps of Faith

The next planning meeting will be held at Caroline Jestin's home in Avon, Conn on March 5th.

Directions and a map will be in the next Grapevine. Judi and Roger Bunker will also put people up. If you are coming for the night, please tell Caroline and/or Roger and Judi well in advance so they can plan ahead.

Conference Hour Possibilities

Sarah Pirtle, a peace activist and musician is a fairly firm yes.

John Runyon, a Christian Scientist who has lived his life intentionally from an early age. Andrew has been in contact with him—he is not sure what he will talk about.

James Merkle, at Dartmouth College, who helps plan new building at the college and chairs a new department on the Sustainability of the World. He follows the "Your Money Your Life" philosophy.

William Sloane Coffin, author of Credo, friend of Kathy Lowe-Bloch.

The planners are thinking of having the last conference hour be in the form of a memory session coordinated by someone yet to be chosen.

Workshops

A number of ideas were discussed:

Scrapbook workshop—create a large general scrapbook for the conference.

Geneagram showing who brought each Northfielder to the conference the first time.

Lindsay offered to coordinate this—

Journalling

Improvisation

Adult/teen fish tank with what each group would like to hear from the other.

Dream workshop

Photography—Melissa Shook told the group that she likes to focus on body language and words in her photography.

Walking around campus taking memory pictures.

Peter suggested the planning people should approach the whole conference to get suggestions about workshops.

Sports coordinator—the planners will check with Michel Beland.

Lisa Church has agreed to coordinate the coffee house. Katie Grillo will help her.

Kathy reminded us that anyone can bring art and sell or display it—20% of the cost is given to the conference.

Talent Show

Lindsay Freese and Caroline Jestin are the talent show coordinators. The talent show needs more structure as well as content scrutiny. **The coordinators will choose one more coordinator who is a parent.**

Some of the things that are being looked at and will be discussed further:

All acts must be signed up by Wednesday at noon. The show will run for a maximum of two hours. Only talent acts will be allowed—no lip-synching and no last-minute acts. The coordinators will vet acts to make sure that none are offensive. All children's acts will have adult supervision. If an act disintegrates, it will be gonged out. We could have a workshop that would give people a chance to prepare (improvisation) their acts. [Guidelines will be put in the Grapevine.](#)

Homeland Security Update

Andrew gave an update on the homeland security situation. It is 99% sure we will be on the Northfield campus. Andrew was told that as long as the campus is not sold, the person in charge of finances would like to see us stay where we love to be—he said he would tell any potential buyer that we would like to keep coming. Andrew found out that Roundtop not owned by the school.

Julie said that perhaps we should ask once more if we can have the later week now that they have almost promised to let us stay. This must be done very soon so we can give firm dates to conference hour speakers and workshop leaders.

Peter feels we should move as soon as possible and get on with life. Avoid all the endless uncertainty. Not fond of idea of going with a new buyer as we have no history with them.

[We decided to ask if we could change the date this year.](#)

Summary of the League Situation

Julie outlined the ongoing issue of the relationship between the League and us. There are people who are interested, to wit, Carol, Maeve and George, Caroline, Peggy, and Connie but the rest of us are not really involved. We need to expand the interest or give up the whole thing. [We will address this issue in June.](#)

[Peter suggested we ask Roger to look at the cost/consequences of splitting from the League.](#) Mickey feels that we are trying to keep something going that is irrelevant to us. They have a shot in the arm with the young people on their executive and they seem interested in keeping us but perhaps this is because we are much larger than they and form the core of the whole thing. Perhaps we should ask them to join us.

Peggy suggested we invite them to come to the June conference this year to discuss this. [Julie agreed to pursue this with the other groups and invite them to hold their conference at Northfield this year.](#)

Jan told the meeting that she did not make a commitment to attend the League next year.

Egroup Guidelines

We are monitoring ourselves with regard to what we put on the egroup message board and we need to be vigilant. Frank said that he could send out guidelines once a month. Peter thanked Frank for all his efforts.

Database

Frank Grillo has the only list—[he will send it to some other people, including the](#)

secretary.

Do we want to keep the Yahoo site? Or just have Frank Grillo be the keeper of the list. We could have the Yahoo site contain only names and email addresses and have Frank keep it up to date.

Frank Grillo suggested we have an open information session on this question in June.

Grapevine

Jan asked that when people send articles to Debbie for the Grapevine they also send her a copy so she can monitor the situation.

Summary of Midwinter Options

Julie said we will sign for this space to secure it for next year but we will change the date to the end of January. We may/will explore other venues if this seems to make sense.

Andrew said that we have not designed the weekend for children and so we discourage them. It is also expensive at Rolling Ridge for families.

Lisa thought that perhaps the attendance is low this year because information about it was late in coming. This may be in part because it was held so soon after the holidays.

Discussion about the change of date next year—most people prefer the later date.

Fundraising Update

Carol said she needs one more person on her committee.

She will develop a plan with a goal. She feels that we need to bring in money from outsiders. Caroline wants to build the endowment fund with a view to increasing funding for more people to come. The multi-pledge concept will be emphasized—there will be someone in charge of this. People with ideas should contact Carol or Caroline. Jan suggested that perhaps something will come out of the commemorative workshops that may be held in June.

The meeting adjourned at 10:53.