

The Newsletter of *Western Quarterly Meeting*
Of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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Kennett Square, PA 19348
WesternQuarterQuakers.org
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Kennett Friends Meeting
125 W. Sickie Street
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January

2014

Our Community of Meetings

Centre Meeting
Crosslands Worship Group
Fallowfield Meeting
Hockessin Meeting
Kendal Meeting
Kennett Meeting

London Grove Meeting
Marlborough Meeting
Mill Creek Meeting
New Garden Meeting
Newark Meeting
West Grove Meeting

*For more information go to:
westernquarterquakers.org
and then click on
“Our Community.”*

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Register Yourself and/or your child(ren) for the January Quarterly Meeting. WesternQuarterQuakers.org/RSVP

Mark Meyers will present on the history of Western Quarterly Meeting while the youth watch **Rise of the Guardians, Play with Clay, and Make Edible Log Cabins!** ...Sunday January 19, 9:30am to 1:30pm.. Business Meeting will happen between 1:30pm and 2:30pm, and if you decide to stay, this is when we'll make edible log cabins.
London Grove Meeting
500 W. Street Rd.
Kennett Square, PA 19348

To Register Go To:
WesternQuarterQuakers.org/RSVP

Also...

We are currently in need of Friends to fill the following positions:

Quarterly Meeting Co-Clerk or Assistant Clerk, Recording Clerk, and Assistant Recording Clerk. Also, we are actively recruiting for the positions of Quarterly Meeting Clerk and Treasurer. Our current Clerk, Pamela Leland, and Treasurer, Ariana Langford, will complete their terms in June 2014. Please contact Shelley Hastings, Clerk of Our Nominating Committee, for more information at zeppychubby@hotmail.com. Or you can contact us at coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org.

Please send what you'd like to share in future Newsletters (prose, poems, pictures, announcements) to coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org.

Tear this flyer out and post it in your Meeting and in public places!

The Western Quarterly Meeting Adult Program!

London Grove Meeting, Sunday,
Jan 19, 2014, 500 W. Street Road,
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Schedule

9:30am — Worship

10:15am — Children Join Us

**10:30am — Sign-In and
Announcements**

**11:00am — Program with
Mark Meyers**

**12:15pm — Responses to the
Eleventh Query**

12:30pm — Lunch

Mark Meyers

Leads us in...

A Look at the

History of Western Quarterly Meeting



Youth Program at Quarterly Meeting Hosted by London Grove Meeting

Plus Events and Stories

In Our Meeting Community

January | 2014

Quarterly Meeting Youth Program

Screening Dream Works'

Rise of the Guardians

Followed by Fun with Clay!

19 Jan 2014 9:30am to 1:30pm



Events and Stories at Our Meetings

Are you are young adult? Between the ages of 18 and 35? This retreat may be just the thing for you or your family member. **The Winter Retreat** is happening between Friday January 3 and 5 at Swarthmore Friends Meeting in Swarthmore, PA. Register at pym.org/young-adult-friends/

Movie Night at Hockessin Meeting! Saturday 4 January 2014 Screening *Smoke Signals*! Go to westernquarterquakers.org/events. The time will begin around 5:00pm and end at 9:00pm. This is a time for slightly bigger kids. Get in touch via our contacts on page 8.



London Grove Meeting is Spearheading a **Tour of Meetinghouses** in the Summer of 2014! What do you think? Want to help out? Become the liaison for your meeting to develop this great source of outreach. Contact Zac at coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org



PYM Children's Religious Life Winter Family Overnight, 18 to 19 January 2014. Multigen activities for the whole family, a dinner together, free time to play, bedtime stories, and a chance for adults to spend time with other parents! Register at pym.org/children/.



PYM Worship & Ministry Thread Gathering, 25 January 2014, 9:30am to 3:30pm at Kennett Meeting. This gathering is an opportunity for grounding and skills development for Friends who are called to care for worship. Register at pym.org/thread-gatherings/.



Quarterly Meeting Planning Meeting, 5 February 2014, 7:00pm, New Garden Meeting. This is a time when Friends from all the different monthly meetings gather to work with the meeting hosting the next Quarterly Meeting in planning the program.



PYM Young Friends Winter Gathering, 7 to 9 February 2014, Haddonfield Monthly Meeting in NJ. Young Friends is a group of high-school aged Quakers who regularly gather in community for personal growth and fun! Register at pym.org/young-friends/.



Events and Stories at Our Meetings Continued

PYM Children's Religious Life Junior Interim Meeting, 8 February 2014, Arch Street Meeting House. Bring your whole committee, monthly meeting, first day school, and family to join the work of the kids as they follow up on the Children's Priority. For more info go to pym.org/children



Western Quarterly Meeting Business Meeting and Potluck 12 February 2014 at Kennett Friends Meeting. Who says you can't build community whilst doing business? We are challenging the notion! Go to westernquarterquakers.org/our-work for updates.



Young in the 'Burbs Workshop! We'll explore how to welcome and retain our Young Adults at Bucks Quarterly Meeting, **16 February 2014 at Middletown Meeting.** Find out more at westernquarterquakers.org/events. Our Coordinator will be leading it.



Spiritual Formation Opportunity for Young Adults! The PYM Spiritual Formation Working Group is planning a new multigenerational program focusing on Young Adults. Go to westernquarterquakers.org/blog for more information!



PYM Youth Internship! Apply Now! Go to westernquarterquakers.org/blog for more info! This is an opportunity for young adults to get involved in one of the PYM youth programs. As an award for service, interns get \$500.00 towards Quaker event participation.



School of the Spirit Teacher Search! Go to westernquarterquakers.org/blog. Upon the retirement of Core Teachers Patty Levering and Mike Green, the School of the Spirit Ministry is seeking two teachers to join Becky Phipps...as the Core Teaching Team...



Participate in a Survey for Faith & Play!

Some Friends have begun to think about whether to organize a training for Faith & Play. We have set up a survey, and I want to encourage everyone who wants to explore an innovative curriculum for First Day School to participate!

Go to: <http://westernquarterquakers.org/take-a-faith-play-survey/>



*For More Events and Stories, Go to Our Website WesternQuarterQuakers.org;
We couldn't possibly put everything that's happening in this print newsletter!*

Sarah Kastriner on Worship & Community

This Article by Sarah Kastriner appeared in the
PYM Worship & Ministry Thread Letter

January | 2014

To see where this was originally published go to:
<http://www.pym.org/online-newsletters/>

Kennett Monthly Meeting put many, many months into planning our first residential retreat. The starting point was to name what the meeting wanted to get out of the experience so we began with a series of meeting-wide discussions (of course it did, because we are Quakers!). The conversation around what a retreat is and what we would like to get from such a weekend revealed something that is central to Friends' experience that none of us had contemplated before. It is a "which came first" story, but it needs some context.

We began our discussion with the observation that while most faith-groups are homogenous in their beliefs (and expression of those beliefs) – Quakers are not. The Religious Society of Friends – and each meeting itself, I would say – is a deliberately heterogeneous society. This means we cannot assume that those sitting with us in the meeting room are experiencing worship the same way that we are. We can't assume that they even believe the same things we do. Among the 40 or so regular attenders at Kennett we have atheists, non-theists, poly-theists, Christ-centered Christians, Light-centered Christians, Buddhist Quakers, and the list goes on! As much as we lament our lack of social diversity in our meetings, we have found quite a bit of religious diversity in ours. Right away we recognized these differences (and our assumptions about "Quakers") to be a potential source of tension in the meeting. So we laid the foundation, that everyone seeks to feel safe, be recognized (seen) and affirmed (accepted) within the group. This is what we seek to do even (or especially) with those whose beliefs differ from our own. (Another Friend I know would insist at this point that "Quakerism is NOT a belief! It is a practice!" While I agree, that is a topic for another time.)

We held our first retreat discussion as a worship-sharing, and nearly everyone spoke. As facilitator of the group, I was afraid people would express such divergent desires about the retreat that

we wouldn't be able to find common ground, but to my surprise every response fell into one of two categories: 1) a desire for a deeper worship experience, or 2) a desire for building stronger community with each other. The push-pull between these two groups became quite intense (though never antagonistic) and in seeking clarification we learned that, for some of us, worship comes first, and community is built upon that, and for others community comes first – which leads to deeper worship.

I don't know that there is a "right" answer to this conundrum, but I have given it a lot of thought and this new filter sheds light on a few things. It explains why some are concerned with ending meeting "on time" so we can get to fellowship, while others are content to sit, eyes closed, on the facing bench, waiting for the sense of the meeting to be right, not the clock. It explains why we see some Friends only for worship or committee work, and others happily teach FDS or create events for us to participate in. It explains why it has been suggested in our meeting (more than once over the years) that we enter the meeting room in silence, beginning worship in a mindful state. Yet there is always whispered chatter as Friends greet each other anyway. It explains why some people say they don't need to come to Meeting for Worship to be Quaker, and it explains why for others the very essence of Quakerism is worshipping together.

I've come to feel that it doesn't so much matter "which came first" as long as both elements are strong within the meeting. Worship without community results in a dwindling meeting, while community without worship at its core is subject to whims and strife – and egos. We need a strong community to earn each other's trust, allow ourselves to open to the Spirit, and be vulnerable. We need to keep worship at the heart of why we gather because it is through worship that we transcend our religious (and other) differences, seeking Truth, guidance, the way forward – the Sense of the Meeting. And where would we be without that?

Ginny Green on Deepening Our Worship

London Grove Meeting Held a Workshop on Spiritual Practices

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A Workshop held at London Grove Monthly Meeting on October 26, 2013, by Ginny Green Clerk, Worship & Ministry Committee

In the beginning of 2013, during a discussion at a London Grove Worship & Ministry Committee meeting, some Friends shared that they would like to deepen their experience during Meeting for Worship. We routinely gather in Silence each First Day, and while we frequently have profound sharing, both in the form of a gathered Silence and in spoken messages, some felt the need to go deeper - to enter Meeting for Worship with both more openness and more intention. It was decided to explore this desire further by organizing a workshop. Although there are a number of people at London Grove who have training and experience in Spiritual Nurture, we decided to involve a larger circle in this event by having outside facilitators and inviting all of Western Quarterly Meeting to join us.

Among those people recommended as possible facilitators was Connie Lezenby, who, as a member of Gwynedd Monthly Meeting, helped to create the Gathering Garden at Gwynedd—a program offering a variety of activities to enhance and support Friends' spiritual journeys. We invited Connie to lead us in this day of exploration, and she suggested that Ruth Kinsey, also of Gwynedd Meeting, co-facilitate.

The event was publicized by Zac Dutton, Western Quarter coordinator, on the Quarterly Meeting website, WesternQuarterQuakers.org, as well as through flyers and e-mails. We asked people to pre-register so we would have an idea of how many to expect and if anyone had special needs like dietary concerns (London Grove provided the lunch) or childcare.

On Saturday, October 26, 2013, twenty four people gathered at the London Grove Meeting House, including London Grove people and Friends from Newark, Kendal, Marlborough, Kennett, and Mill Creek Meetings as well as Crosslands Worship Group.

Connie and Ruth asked us to begin in a large circle of chairs in the Social Room. Out of the Silence, each person introduced themselves and shared a spiritual practice that they used or were drawn to. It was wonderful to hear the variety of practices that people engaged in—from chanting to hanging out laundry to reading scripture. Each person, each life was unique, but we overlapped as well. The exercise helped us to know each other better so quickly—we each only had a minute to share!

After we introduced ourselves, Connie shared with us about spiritual direction/nurture, numinous experiences, the role of Silence, and more information about spiritual listening. She also explained about eating our lunch in Silence, which some of us had not done before. Traditionally lunch was a time for fellowship and conversation—this would be a new experience!

Connie's sharing was followed by Ruth leading us in

a guided meditation exercise on "Being in the Presence of God on behalf of another". After the meditation, some people shared their experiences with the larger group.

After a brief break, we gathered again in our large circle, with chairs for 4 in the center. Ruth, Connie and two workshop participants then demonstrated the process that takes place during small group spiritual nurture or direction. The four people took turns sharing something about their life, while being listened to by the others. Open-ended questions were asked when helpful.

Now it was time for lunch. We had plenty of delicious food, but no talking! It was quite a new experience for me. I am usually very comfortable with Silence, but this was the first time I had sat at a table eating with people without the usual conversation and verbal fellowship taking place. When lunch was over, Connie asked for comments. One person found the Silence extremely uncomfortable while another enjoyed the quiet and found it refreshing without the usually requisite "small talk".

We then broke up into six small groups, meeting in separate places. Each group had a facilitator, and we had been given a hand-out with guidelines for the group spiritual direction process. We met in these groups for about an hour and a half. My experience in the small group included going very deep to share with the others, as well as feeling a strong connection with each of the others as they shared. There was laughter, and there were some more serious moments, and there were periods of connected Silence.

When the time for our small groups came to an end, we once again gathered in our large circle. This was what Connie referred to as "Gathering the Graces" of the day, as we used a Worship Sharing format to share what we had experienced in our small groups. What I felt during this "Gathering" was a sense of joy, a Lightness, a warm connectedness, a gratitude, a peace, as a gathered body. I was delighted, and felt so grateful for "Spirit at Work" through the Worship & Ministry Committee, for the planning of the day, for the facilitators, and for each person who came to London Grove to Deepen Their Worship.

We closed with Silent Worship.

Some impressions and comments from the day:

~ Several people commented about how "perfect" their particular group of 4 was - how well they fit together. While the groups were formed partly with intention and partly randomly, my feeling is there is magic that happens when we come together in such a setting. To truly listen, and to truly be listened to, transforms us. We learn that we matter, that our story and our life matters, and that we are not alone! How wonderful to realize that, and feel that in our hearts!

[Continued on next page, page 7.]

Fairville Friends and the Quaker Fair

Celebrating 40 Years!

Quaker Fair Raises \$7,000.00!

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[...continued from page 6.]

~ "The opportunity to share intimately and from a deeper spiritual level felt very rewarding. Improving my listening skills to hear not only the spoken word but what may have been left unspoken, with the chance to read between the lines; allowing the brief time of Silence after each of the four of us spoke, to process what we heard before responding. Both leaders did a good job of facilitating."

~ I thought as I watched the group interact towards the end of the day, that we are such treasures to each other, if we only realize it, and if we share such opportunities as we did during this day. There is such abundance, such potential—for love, nurture, encouragement, support, caring, right in our midst. Of course there are differences between us too—at London Grove, for example, there is a wide range of beliefs about many things, from saying the Lord's Prayer on First Day, to hiring paid staff, to Bible Study. The whole

spectrum is represented. But if we can have experiences like we had on this day, and like we have sharing food at potlucks, or singing favorite hymns together, or saying good-bye to beloved Meeting members, or saying hello to new Meeting members, then our Divine Connectedness, the Truth that we are indeed All One, becomes our primary frame of reference, the primary ground from which we grow, and allows us the opportunity to figure out how to proceed when issues divide us.

The London Grove Worship & Ministry Committee is planning to form small spiritual nurture groups in early 2014. If you would like to join us or learn more, you can contact me at ginnyblackie@aol.com or [302-245-8203](tel:302-245-8203).

With Deep Gratitude,
Ginny Green
Clerk, London Grove Worship & Ministry Committee

Fairville Friends School Celebrates 40 Years

If you attended July Quarterly Meeting last year (2012) or the year before, you've seen this lovely preschool. Now located in what was the family home on the former Woodward Farm (Chadds Ford), Fairville Friends School had much more modest beginnings. It was started in 1973 by Barbara DesJardins (Bradford MM, Concord QM), in the young Quaker teacher's living room. "I took a table, and cut the legs off shorter so the kids could reach it," Barbara has said of those earliest years. Anything that needed to be done—around the house or in the yard—became a "field trip" of sorts for the handful of children she taught.

That can-do spirit, combined with a real understanding of children and how to nurture their Light-within led to larger enrollments, and the school moved along Kennett Pike several times before acquiring the farmhouse from the Woodward family (Kennett MM) in 1988. Now, 40 years later, Fairville Friends School is under the care of Kennett Monthly Meeting, has 6 classrooms, 4 play yards (plus two sheep and a rabbit!), and serves children from ages 2 through kindergarten. Through it all they have held Quaker values as central to their mission, and the daily life of the school. To see what that looks like, take a peek at the video on their homepage, celebrating "40 Years of Friendship at Fairville Friends". As the words appear around the images, see if you can spot all 40, and how they relate to our testimonies.

Link: <http://www.fairvillefriends.org/>.

Kennett Friends Meeting raises nearly \$7000 for AFSC

The Saturday before Thanksgiving has been a special day for me for as long as I can remember. This is the day when our Meeting House is transformed into a wonderland of potential—the Gift Shop full of hand made items (where, at two-and-a-half I got my first and most beloved teddy bear), thousands of books in the Book Room, and 3 rooms of hand-me-down treasure in Mabel's Attic.

And the food! As a child I only had eyes for the Country Kitchen's tables full of baked goods, but now the aroma of mushroom soup coming from the kitchen permeates the building and is just as tempting and divine. It's Quaker Fair time! There's more, of course, but what makes the Quaker Fair even more magical than all of the "stuff"—is all of the people. Preparing for the Fair brings our Meeting community together with a common purpose: to support AFSC and the good works they do around the world.

Every year we donate the amount we raise during the Fair directly to AFSC. This year that total is nearly \$7000.

The Fair also brings the larger community through our doors...Some friends have been coming to the fair for decades; seeing them each year is like getting an annual Christmas card, only better... If you missed it this year, don't worry - we'll be doing it again. Mark your calendars for November 22nd, 2014, and we'll see you there!

-Sarah Kastriner is Clerk of Fairville's Trustees and Kennett Meeting's Coordinator



The Friendly News
Western Quarterly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends
P O Box 693
Kennett Square, PA 19348



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**Contact us with your
ideas, suggestions and
questions:**

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Phone - 610.444.1012 or
443.929.0687. Send content at
any time to us via email or
call us, we'll add it to our
blog, and publish it in our
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print newsletters.

*Don't be surprised if we
call or email you!*

We are investing in our web-site!!

Check it out !!

You will find ... Contacts, a blog updated daily with
vibrant news about all the communities that make up
our Quarterly Meeting ... our newsletters in PDF
format ... a list of meetings (with information on
Meeting activities) ... resources for Monthly
Meeting leaders ... various publications for your
enjoyment ... bumper stickers for purchase ... an
invitation to join our mailing list ... resources for
folks in search of grants ... a summary of events
happening in our region ... and a Google Calendar
link to upload your activities in our calendar so you'll
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