This is our Last Print Newsletter!

Starting in January, this Western Quarterly Meeting newsletter will no longer be automatically mailed to every household in the Quarter.

WQ has approved saving nearly $2000 per year by switching our newsletter distribution to electronic copies.

We care about our resources, but we also care about our members. We recognize some in the Quarter may still wish to receive the newsletter in print, so hard copies will still be available. **If you would like to continue receiving a printed copy of the Western Quarterly Newsletter, please notify the coordinator via email (coordinator@WesternQuarterQuakers.org) or phone 610-444-1012 (press “2” to leave a message).**

Please send what you’d like to share in future Newsletters (prose, poems, pictures, announcements) to coordinator@WesternQuarterQuakers.org
A Ministry of Elder Care!
The Friends Boarding Home Movement
and a Brief History of Senior Living!

The October 19, 2014 Session of Western Quarterly Meeting!

Kennett Monthly Meeting Hosts!

Register yourself
and your youth at:

WesternQuarterQuakers.org/RSVP

The Schedule
9:00 AM — Sign In
9:30 AM — Program
10:30 AM — Query # 8
10:45 AM — Break
11:00 AM — Worship
11:30 AM — Youth Join Us
11:45 AM — Lunch
1:00 to 3:00 PM — Business

Featuring a program by our very own Wright Horne!
October 19th - Quarterly Meeting

Calling all Children of Western Quarter!

Come together for a Fall Fun program at Kennett Friends Meeting, starting at 9:30 am.

125 W Sickle Street, Kennett Square
All ages are welcome. If you register ahead of time, we can be better prepared for the fun: WesternQuarterQuakers.org/RSVP

Events in Our Community

For locations and further information regarding events go to: WesternQuarterQuakers.org/events.

November Movie Night Double Feature
Saturday, November 8. Join us at Hockessin Friends Meeting
5:00 pm for Despicable Me (PG- When a criminal mastermind uses a trio of orphan girls as pawns for a grand scheme, he finds their love is profoundly changing him for the better),
6:30 for dinner (pizza & salad)
7:15 pm for Amazing Grace (PG-The idealist William Wilberforce maneuvers his way through Parliament, endeavoring to end the British transatlantic slave trade).

***Save the date! On January 3rd we will be showing Gandhi.***

London Grove 300th Anniversary Celebration continues...

Saturday, October 18, 1pm to 7 pm All-Day Anniversary Celebration
Graveyard tours, presentations and exhibits on display; multi-generational activities throughout the day.
Advanced tickets required for the dinner only (seating starts at 4 pm).

Sunday, November 9, 7:30 pm Quakers and the Early Development of Chester County with Karen Marshall, Chester County Historic Preservation Office. Refreshments following the presentation.

Saturday, December 6, 7:30 pm Celtic Harp Performance
WQ’s own Gillian Grassie returns to share her beautiful music.
All welcome to a covered dish supper at 5:30 before the performance; bring a dish to share.
For more details visit: www.pym.org/london-grove-friends-meeting/
Events in Our Community - continued
For locations and further information regarding events go to: WesternQuarterQuakers.org/events.

Playing in the Light: Faith & Play Training for WQ Friends
November 7-9 at Center Meeting
Melinda Wenner Bradley & Michael Gibson
Faith & Play is a powerful way of being with children. It can transform your FDS and nurture your own spiritual life. This training will teach you skills to help children explore the existential limits of their lives through wonder, play, and core stories from the Bible and Quaker faith and practice.
Please register by October 22. Cost is $100 — scholarships are available for all who wish to attend. Contact the WQ coordinator for details.

Fall FDS Convergence!
155 E. Harmony Rd, West Grove, PA 19390 Sunday November 16 10 AM
We will be playing in the fall leaf piles at West Grove Meeting!

What if all the First Day Schools in the quarter converged a few times a year? It would be a Quaker Play Date!
Sunday, November 16th 10 am
West Grove Meeting invites children of all ages to come and play in the leaf piles. Parents are welcome to play along, or attend worship.

Hadley Memorial Fund Performances:
The Merling Trio (violin, cello, piano)
Sunday, November 9, 3 pm at Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church, 101 Old Kennett Pike, DE

Dr. Elliot Engel presents, Charles Dickens and Christmas
Sunday, December 14, 3 pm at Kennett Meeting
Hear how the publication of Dickens' A Christmas Carol in 1843 changed forever the way we celebrate Christmas.

PYM First Day School Thread Gathering and Children’s Thread Gathering! NEW!
October 18, 9:30 to 3:30
Uwchlan Meeting, Downingtown, PA
More information can be found online http://www.pym.org/thread-gatherings/

Save the date!
January Quarterly Meeting will be hosted by Kendal Monthly Meeting on Saturday, January 17, 2015

Gatherings for Younger Friends (PYM)

Middle School Friends
Programs w/overnight
Oct 24-26: Quakers, the early days
George School Campus
Dec 5-7: Quakers, rabble rousers
Valley Friends Meeting

High School Friends
Program w/overnight
Oct 31-Nov 2
Masks–Hiding & Revealing
Yardley Monthly Meeting

PYM Winter Family Overnight Saturday, January 17, 1:30 pm to noon on Sunday, Jan 18.
Family overnight is a one-night sleepover for families with kids K-5th grade.
Check out PYM’s website for more programs and information: www.pym.org
Dear Friends,

It has been a tremendous privilege to work with the Western Quarterly Meeting community. The relationships I have formed here will carry me well as I begin a new chapter. I am heartened that I will still be working for our wider yearly-meeting community. I won’t be a stranger! In this regard, I will leave you with one parting thought.

Western Quarterly Meeting is not a separate entity from our monthly meetings, lurking in the wilderness of Quaker Land. Western Quarterly Meeting is just a phrase out of many possible phrases meaning, “our community of monthly meetings and one worship group.” We associate through Western Quarterly Meeting because we know we are better together. We need each other as we traverse spiritual landscapes, which are sometimes treacherous. We need each other as we work to make the world a better place. We need each other as we endeavor to raise children who are capable of vulnerability, who seek to grow their minds and hearts, and who strive always to do the right thing. Indeed, our spiritual community does not end at the parking lot of our meetinghouses.

It is the responsibility, therefore, of Western Quarterly Meeting and its Support Committee to focus their attention on our community of monthly meetings. The Quarterly Meeting’s job is, merely, to support the leadings and ministry that rise up from our monthly meetings in whatever way seems most helpful and enhancing. The Quarterly Meeting provides the ground upon which we, having realized that we need each other, can have each other.

Many blessings,

Zachary T. Dutton

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Reflections on a Grant Experience

Blaise Glowiak is a member of Centre Friends Meeting, who received a grant from the Traveling Ministers Fund to attend the Global Solutions Design Science Lab. He wrote about his experience below.

The Global Solutions Design Science Lab was a wonderful opportunity for me to learn more about issues facing the world. Not only did I learn about these issues, I was given the chance to solve them. People from all over the world were present at the lab. Georgia, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, Jamaica, Thailand, Poland, Canada, and the U.S.A. were represented in the lab. Not only did I get to learn from these people, I also had the chance to take trips to downtown Philadelphia with them. In my group I worked with, we worked on solving issues with refugees. We came up with a system of giving refugees skills and jobs so they could use them in a peace-making process and for rebuilding. We worked for a whole week, from video-conferences with U.N. officials, to working for hours on getting the information to work with our solution, we were kept very busy.

At the end of the week we all boarded a bus and set off for New York City. We then arrived at the U.N.
headquarters. We were given a small tour where we saw things like a section of the Berlin Wall. But the big event at the U.N. was our presentation of our solutions. We presented in front of ten U.N. officials and others. Our presentation on refugees went very well. We were given very informative feedback from the officials. In all, the whole week was very interesting and fun. Our findings and that of other participants will be published as a book in the fall of this year.

Visit www.designsciencelab.com for more information.

To read more stories go to our blog at WesternQuarterQuakers.org/blog

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tonya thames taylor is a member of Fallowfield Monthly Meeting, and has recently accepted the nomination as Recording Clerk for Western Quarterly Meeting. Her reflections here were first published in Friends Journal. Republished with permission.

In the American South, where I came of age, language is regularly interspersed with phrases such as “God have mercy”; “Trust in God”; “Bless her heart, God”; “God don’t like ugly”; and “He is an on-time God.” The word “God,” which I came to know meant a higher, invisible, and omnipotent force, has been in my lexicon since I learned to communicate.

Stories of devotions to God, personified by biblical heroes such as Abel, who was obedient and gave his best to God, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who risked their lives by refusing to bow to an idol lower than God, created indelible imprints in my value system and spiritual development long before I learned the children’s stories of Cinderella and Jack and the Beanstalk. Yet, in this milieu of the American South, I, too, learned that God exacts punishment on those who disobey. Terror and guilt accompanied my ideas concerning God. I concentrated more on the wrath, not mercy, of God. “God sits high, but looks low” was a favorite saying of the elders around me. My translation: Avoid the brimstone by never upsetting God.

Without a true connection with faith, God served more as a mythical Santa Claus or magisterial judge and a ready excuse for unexplainable occurrences. As long as God delivered, blissful and blessed described my life. However, when my lofty wishes and fanciful desires failed to occur and humiliations abounded, I became quite dispirited and restless in thoughts that I had unwittingly disappointed God.

I came to rely on signs. Without the comfort of signs, I could not maintain the enthusiasm or hope that some associate with faith. These signs took place normally in what some call “blessings in disguise,” such as an unexpected, fortunate outcome.

The hallmark of my Quakerism is my willingness to endure, positively, whatever happens. The emphasis on endurance reduces my dependence on outward signs and increases my trust in God. This trust routinely creates a more profound peace and joy. It allows me to focus less on expectations. Also, it takes away any fear that might derive from worrying. Jesus admonishes me not to worry about even the most basic of needs, as it interferes with the ability to live presently and in joy. Taking advice from the Apostle Paul, I should run with endurance any present race set before me (Hebrews 12:1).
Members from nine quarterly meetings gathered at Reading Monthly Meeting on June 7, 2014 to affirm the role and importance of our quarters. There was a sense of community and belonging to each other. We converged upon the truth that regional gatherings can be a place where yearly meeting becomes relevant. The quarterly meeting experience is an inspirational intermediary between monthly meetings and our wider yearly meeting community. When we come together, we collectively fuel our excitement about being Quakers.

We also considered the life in our quarterly meetings as it relates to leadership, youth support, membership, roles and responsibilities, working across our communities, and spiritual formation.

As we adjourned, we affirmed the value of fellowship, worship, and sharing in love towards the development of new ideas and the seasoning of others. It is time that we further explore concrete ways to integrate the structure, energy, and community between monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and the yearly meeting.

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Contact us with your ideas, suggestions and questions:

Pamela Leland / Clerk
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Sarah Kastriner / Coordinator
coordinator@
WesternQuarterQuakers.org

Phone - 610.444.1012
Send content to use at any time. We’ll add it to our blog, and publish it in our newsletters.

Don’t be surprised if we reach out to you!

We have invested in our web-site!!

Check it out!!

You will find … Contacts, a blog updated regularly 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 e-mail lists … resources for folks in search of grants … a summary of events happening in our region … and an events page that allows you to change the display so you can see events by day, week, month, or as a list!

Join us. Go to WesternQuarterQuakers.org
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