



Western Quarterly News

of the Religious Society Of Friends

Western Quarterly Meeting Newsletter April 2015

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Greetings, Friends, as we give thanks for warmer weather, sunshine and new growth:

Many of us desire growth in our Religious Society of Friends, but growth can come in many forms. It cannot be measured by numbers alone – whether in attendance, new members, or FDS classes.

It must also include strengthened relationships, vitality, energy of discussion and engagement, and depth of worship. Whether one believes that either growth or its opposite – decline – is inevitable, it is clear that strong growth in the right direction takes care and nurturing support.

In my years as co-clerk and now clerk, I have seen growth in our Quarter. For me, the recent Religious Education "Convergences" exemplify the growth that we seek. These occasional gatherings of youth from across our Quarter, organized by members from a number of Meetings, provide both children and adults the opportunity to play and worship together, and capture the spirit of collaboration and community that many of us desire. These gatherings, in my opinion, represent some of the best of who we are as a Quarter. It is my hope – and prayer – that more of this type of inter-Meeting engagement will emerge within Western Quarter in the future.

This desire to mutually support one another, as individuals and as Monthly Meetings, was clearly expressed in our recent Support Committee meeting as

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Living into Friends' Testimonies

April 19th, Quarterly Meeting

West Grove Friends Meeting

10 am Worship * 11 am Discussion

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we discussed the status of the Unified Budgeting Process. Though there was recognition that we have not fulfilled the intention of this process as it relates to Quarter financial decisions for at least a decade, there was a hesitance to “lay it down” because of the underlying principles of mutual benefit and mutual support that form the foundation upon which it was created. As we ended our discussion, there seemed to be recognition that laying down the Unified Budgeting Process (as a Quarter-wide financial decision-making process) would invite us to re-affirm this commitment to one another as Monthly Meetings in some other format. The desire among those at the

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meeting was clear: to strengthen our involvement with, and support of, one another as Monthly Meetings.

I hope that you will join us on April 19th at Quarterly Meeting as we continue to discuss these – and other – issues.

In peace,



Pam Leland, Western Quarter Clerk,
London Grove Monthly Meeting member

New PA Child Welfare Laws May Impact Meeting Volunteers

If your meeting, school and/or first day school is in Pennsylvania, the following information pertains to you.

Recent changes in Pennsylvania child welfare laws impact volunteers and paid staff who work with children and youth, specifically requirements regarding background certifications and mandatory reporting.

It is now Pennsylvania state law that organizations, including monthly meetings, must conduct specific background screenings on all volunteers and paid staff whose responsibilities involve direct contact with children. In addition, volunteers and paid staff who work directly with children are now considered to be mandated reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect. More information about these changes is available in [PA Child Welfare Law - Recent Changes that Affect Meetings](#) on the PYM website.

As you read this information, which may seem overwhelming, please know that PYM staff are here to help! While your meeting decides on your own policies and procedures, we can provide information and conduct your background checks using approved systems. Our staff have been trained, have consulted with organizations and individuals about the new requirements, and have vetted our own practices with our insurance company.

We all give to our Monthly Meetings to support our financial obligations and activities (or at least, we know we should), but did you know that a portion of every donation gets passed on to the Quarter, and the Quarter then passes our MMs' combined annual contribution to PYM? This is Western Quarter's *only* source of funding, and each Meeting is heavily reliant on member contributions as well.

PYM is making it easier for Friends to give throughout the year (instead of trying to write one big check!) - with [online giving](#). This free service allows you to set up automatic payments (through a bank account or credit card) on a regular schedule (monthly, quarterly, etc.) to your Monthly, Quarterly, and/or Yearly Meetings.

Check it out, at pym.org.



Living into Friends' Testimonies

April 19th, Quarterly Meeting

West Grove Friends Meeting

10 am Worship * 11 am Discussion

Quarterly Meeting is our opportunity to Gather as Friends, who even in our differences seek the same Spirit. The topic for this gathering is: [Living into Friends' Testimonies: how a small group of Quakers made a big difference.](#)

West Grove MM invites Friends from throughout the Quarter to join them for Worship at 10 am, followed by a discussion led by Gail Newbold. Gail is one of the founders of EQAT (Earth Quaker Action Team), a small group of Friends who felt led to respond to uphold the testimony on stewardship of the environment, and channeled their leading through social activism that has produced real results (see article on p. 4). We gather to celebrate this success, as well as learn ways – small and large – we can also “walk the walk”, living our testimonies as Friends.

A simple meal of soup will be provided, but Friends are invited (and encouraged!) to bring a side or dessert to share.

The Children's Program (details below) will begin with Worship and end when lunch is served. Meeting for Worship with attention to Western Quarter's business will follow lunch, at 1 pm.

Schedule:

9:30 am Coffee & tea
 10 am Meeting for Worship — Children's program starts
 11 am Discussion
 12:15 Lunch (children join their families)
 1 pm Meeting for Business

Children's Program:

Quarterly Meeting at West Grove will also be an opportunity for our young Friends to have a fun time together. We will build forts! Bring your creativity and engineering skills- we'll provide the materials. We also plan to make a banner for all the children to decorate with their own flair. Please contact Robin at Youth@WesternQuarterQuakers.org to let us know you'll be there. Or just show up- the more, the merrier! The children's program will run from 10AM–12:15, when we will join the adults for lunch. We hope to see you there!

FDS Converged Again at London Grove

by Robin Harper

The March FDS Convergence was a great success! London Grove Meeting hosted over 20 young Friends on Sunday the 15th. The older children met with high school members of Lancaster Meeting to learn about their experience at a Quaker work camp. The younger group enjoyed a treasure hunt that helped them explore the Testimonies. The fun also included singing, games, a delicious lunch, and strengthening new friendships. We hope to see even more young Friends at the June Convergence, hosted by Wilmington Meeting during their Berry Festival on June 7th!

Historic Meetings Summer Worship Schedule

London Britain Meeting 10:30 am Each First Day, 5/31 thru 9/6

Homeville Meeting 2 pm 5/31 & 8/30

Old Kennett Meeting 9 am 6/28, 7/26, & 8/30

Pennsgrove Meeting 10 am 6/21, 7/19 & 8/16

Parkersville Meeting 2 pm 9/13

Colora Meeting 2 pm 9/20

For exact locations, and directions find each event on our calendar: <http://westernquarterquakers.org/events/>

EQAT Celebrates Victory in Environmental Stewardship

By now many of you will have heard how a small group of Quakers helped “take on” PNC Bank – and won. London Grove Friend Gail Newbold has been a part of this group since the beginning, and shares with us more information about EQAT, their recent success, and their plans for the future. Gail will also be leading the discussion at West Grove Friends Meeting on April 19th called “Living into Friends Testimonies,” about how we can follow our leadings with action, and be effective in affecting change in the world. (This discussion will follow Meeting for Worship, which begins at 10 am. [See details here.](#))

Gail shares a few basics about the EQAT campaign here:

- a) PNC Bank is the 7th largest U.S. Bank. Their new policy was announced 3/2/2015. Based on its 2015 Corporate Responsibility Report, PNC Bank will effectively cease its investment in mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia.
- b) EQAT’s successful *Bank Like Appalachia Matters* campaign (BLAM!) was ALL non-violent, in the spirit of Friends, including spirit-led singing, public prayer in the manner of Friends, and the communications with PNC staff — the CEO and Board members to bank branch tellers and security.
- c) There is an [online Thank You every person may sign](#), if so moved, thanking the people in Appalachia for their courageous work.
- d) We’ll be forming our next, new/updated EQAT Campaign over the next 2-3 months: a happy opportunity!

There is much more information in the most recent blog post on the WQM website [here](#), including links to several newspaper articles and a radio interview on NPR.

Join us at Quarterly Meeting on April 19th to hear more about how they went from “a leading” to “leading the charge” that resulted in such change.

Faith Communities Invited to Help Local Homeless Families Two WQ Friends Meetings Say “Yes”



It is no secret that the cost of housing in Southern Chester County is expensive, but did you know that there are also ZERO shelter beds in our area that allow families to stay together while experiencing homelessness? During the 2013-14 school year, 494 students were impacted by homelessness in SCC’s four school districts—an increase of 55% over the previous year. Beyond these numbers are real people—parents and children—who find themselves without a home for a variety of reasons.

Members at West Grove and Kennett Friends Meetings have committed to help these families in need, signing on to the newly formed non-profit, Family Promise of Southern Chester County.

Kennett Friends Meeting will be a host congregation, housing a few families (up to 14 people) in their Meetinghouse classrooms for a week at a time, four times a year.

West Grove Friends Meeting will be a support congregation, providing critical volunteers to help hosts and their guests with logistics, meals, bedding, and even homework.

We hope to be housing families by September 2015, but more support is still needed, both from congregations and individual volunteers.

[This article](#) in the Kennett Paper provides basic information about the program, or visit the [Family Promise](#) site for more details. If you would like a volunteer to speak to your Meeting (presentations available), please contact Dave Haradon at daveharadon@gmail.com

Events to Look Forward To.....

April

April 15, 22 & 29 [Interfaith Speakers Series](#), 7 pm West Grove Friends Meeting

April 18 [Lecture on Drones](#), 7:00 pm London Grove Friends Meeting
Speakers Elizabeth Beavers (FCNL) and Jessie Mooberry (Syria Airlift Project) will speak on using nonviolent innovative technologies to erode conflict.

April 18 PYM Thread Gathering: [Stewardship of Financial Resources](#)

April 19th [Western Quarterly Meeting](#) gathers at West Grove Friends, 9:30 am

April 26th Concord & Western Quarter [Youth Program: Ropes Course & Orienteering](#)

May

May 1-3 [Camp Swatara](#) Weekend Program for **Middle & High School Youth**
Registration Deadline: April 27

May 9 [London Grove Plant Sale](#), 7 am-2 pm

May 9 Kennett Friends [Market Day tag sale](#), 9 am-1 pm

May 10 [Dining for Women](#), 5:30 pm West Grove Friends Meeting

May 16-17th PYM [Spring Family Overnight](#) AND Young Adult Overnight (Same place, separate programs.)
Camp Dark Waters, Medford, NJ

May 23 [Underground Railroad Research Symposium](#), 9:30 am-2 pm London Grove Friends

June

June 7 FDS Converges at Wilmington Friends Meeting for their annual Berry Festival, 1 pm ALL WELCOME

June 28 [Tubing on the Brandywine](#) with Concord Quarter, 12:30-4:30 pm



Nurturing Seeds of Peace and Quaker Voluntary Service

Reflections on January QM Program

Bruce Birchard and Christina Repoley led the program for the January session of Western Quarterly Meeting on "Nurturing Seeds of Peace in a Culture of Violence." Bruce opened their presentation by sharing from decades of experience as an active Friend, and he challenged Friends to be serious about our peace witness. There are many ways we can act for peace, and showing up for vigils and protests is just one of them. We should recognize that it is easy for most of us American Friends, generally living as we do with considerable privilege, to espouse nonviolence. For many of our sisters and brothers around the world who suffer, often terribly, from wars, personal violence and injustice, our words carry little weight if we do not act upon them, giving up some of our privilege in the process.

Bruce concluded by emphasizing that part of our mission as peacemakers is to be effective. Too often,

Friends act as if power and love are incompatible with each other. He closed with this quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love."

Then Christina Repoley, founder of Quaker Voluntary Service spoke. Christina described her leading to start QVS. As a young Quaker, just out of college, she realized that many young adults who had grown up Quaker were not sticking around. She knew that a big reason was the lack of opportunities for young adult Friends to serve others in a strongly supportive Quaker context at this critical time of passage into adulthood. Knowing the transformative power of workcamps and AFSC service programs for earlier generations of Friends, Christina was inspired to create Quaker Voluntary Service.

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Christina reflected on the wisdom of Quaker tradition that teaches us that sowing seeds of peace is about both internal and external transformation. It is in the constant balancing of inward spiritual growth and active love for others in the real world that we create and sustain dynamic Quaker communities. She described Rufus Jones' concept of "prophetic service," which recognizes the brokenness in all of us and leads people into wholeness through service.

Friends then divided into several smaller groups to reflect on queries concerning the personal, spiritual and social/political aspects of sowing seeds of peace in our personal lives, our meetings, our nation and our world. In the closing discussion, Friends asked many questions about Quaker Voluntary Service. A vivid picture of QVS, with photos and bio's of current volunteers, is available at www.quakervoluntaryservice.org.

Abbreviated Minutes of the Business Meeting Session of Western Quarterly Meeting held on 17 January 2015 at Kennett Monthly Meeting ([complete minutes available online](#))

Friends from London Grove, Fallowfield, Kennett, Kendal, Newark, New Garden, Centre, West Grove, and Hockessin Meetings were present. General Secretary Christie Duncan-Tessmer and Coordinator of Bucks Quarterly Holly Olsen were also in attendance.

15.01- Reporting on the Life in our Meetings. After a period of unprogrammed worship, we opened our meeting with updates from Monthly Meetings.

15.02- Friends approved the minutes of the Western Quarterly Meeting (WQM)'s Support Committee Meeting held on 7 December 2014 at Kennett Monthly Meeting.

15.03- Christie Duncan-Tessmer, PYM General Secretary. Opened with a summation of her recent Tour of Meetings. She explained that PYM is "us." PYM is more than an abstract notion; we have thousand of Quakers in PYM, members of 104 meetings. Friend Christie charged us all to (1) practice inter visitation— visit two meetings in a calendar year and share the experience on PYM's website; (2) inquire how the truth is fairing with a Friend; and (3) share spiritual stories via the PYM website, pym.org.

15.04-Friends received and accepted the Budget Update and Financial Report from Treasurer Ariana Langford of Newark Meeting and Budget and Finance Clerk Dick Logan of Hockessin Meeting.

Budget Update: For the Western Quarterly Meeting (WQM), the "new" financial year starts on July 1st. Treasurer Ariana Langford reminded the gathering of Friends that the WQM hired a bookkeeping service. She distributed a "draft" of the finances explaining that some of the figures had to be updated by the bookkeeping services to reflect outstanding expenses. She explained that most of income goes to PYM. She explained that WQM is doing fine because of fewer personnel expenses and the switch to online newsletters.

Financial Report: Budget and Finance Clerk Dick Logan reported that he contacted Clerks and Treasurers of the Monthly Meetings of WQM in mid-December 2014. He received replies from two meetings: one gave a modest increase to WQM and another decided to give more to PYM with no change to WMQ.

Uniform Budgeting System: Clerk Pamela Leland reviewed WQM's history with the Uniform Budgeting System to the gathering of Friends. The system was adopted as an experiment in the 1990s. Within the past 15 years, allocations became routine and the testing of the original leading has been lost for some Monthly Meetings. In a letter sent in September 2014, WMQ's Support Committee invited friends to be more intentional in their discussions about allocation and to test the leading of determining covenant amounts.

15.05- Received and Accepted the Annual Report of the Penns Grove Property Committee of Western Quarterly Incorporated. The Meeting of Western Quarterly Incorporated was called to order at 2:50 PM. Penns Grove Committee Member Mary Sproat provided a detailed financial report including insurance and maintenance costs. She notified the group that there was a switch to Susquehanna Bank. The existing balances are \$1653 in checking and Friends Fiduciary Accounts totaling \$213K. Closed WQ Incorporated Meeting at 2:55 PM.

15.06— Populated Property Task Force. Members of the committee are Mary Sproat of West Grove, Lars Farmer of Kennett, and Pownall Jones of New Garden. Friends learned that this committee may require the services of a lawyer.

15.07-Report & Updates and Future Gathering

Faith and Play Training: March 2015 @ London Grove. Next Quarterly Meeting: **West Grove on 4/19.**

Next Support Committee: Sunday, February 15th at Kennett MM.

Respectfully Submitted, tonya thames taylor, Recording Clerk January 20, 2015

Abbreviated Minutes of the Business Meeting Session of Western Quarterly Meeting held on 15 February 2015 at Kennett Monthly Meeting ([complete minutes available online](#))

Friends from Fallowfield, Kennett, London Grove, Newark, New Garden, and West Grove Meetings met.

15.08- Reporting on the Life in our Meetings. After a period of unprogrammed worship, we began with updates from Monthly Meetings.

15.09- Friends approved the minutes of the Western Quarterly Meeting (WQM)'s Support Committee Meeting held on 17 January 2015 at Kennett Monthly Meeting.

15.10- Personnel Committee Report – Robin Harper has been hired as WQM Youth Activities Coordinator and will start right away. The position will initially be contracted for 10 hours a month.

Since Pennsylvania law changed in January 2015, an intentional conversation needs to be had by each meeting that deals with child care about how to go about implementing WQM policy in light of the new law.

15.11-Update on Bookkeeping – Now that Richard Wortmann, of London Grove MM, is taking oversight of Brandywine Accounting, he can no longer be the auditor for WQM. A letter will be drafted asking for a volunteer to serve as auditor.

15.12- PYM Nominating Committee – WQM Member. WQM can have up to four members on the PYM Nominating Committee. Phil Gilbert, of London Grove is currently our only representation; we are seeking more volunteers.

15.13— Monthly Meeting Financial Discussions – Status Report. Kennett (along with Kendal and London Grove) will allowing PYM to solicit individual members for Annual Fund contribution, while reducing their MM covenant.

15.14— Property Committee Task Force – Status Report. The committee met on Sunday, 2/15/15. As a result of the meeting, a questionnaire will be drafted and sent to every monthly meeting in Western Quarter.

15.15— Support Committee Implementation – Committee Structure. A conversation needs to be had with monthly meetings about what WQM is and what it should be

15.16-Report & Updates and Future Gathering

Faith and Play Training: March 6-8 2015 @ Centre Meeting. First Day School (FDS) Convergence March 15th at London Grove. Next Quarterly Meeting: **West Grove on 4/19.**

Next Support Committee: Sunday, March 22nd at Kennett MM.

Respectfully Submitted, Anthony Taylor, Substitute Recording Clerk February 15, 2015

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Name _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Monthly Meeting: _____

Please return this form to: Western Quarter, PO Box 693, Kennett Square, PA 19348,
or call our WQ office: 610-444-1012

BRINGING TOGETHER A NEIGHBORHOOD OF FRIENDS

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

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Centre Meeting
Crosslands Worship
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