FROM THE CO-CLERKS

My shy fourteen year old son performed with the rest of his class recently as they presented a Renaissance Faire. It was a wonderful event, but the video clips provide evidence that my son was not having a good time. I could imagine him, tallest of his classmates, self-conscious that he might make a mistake, bringing unwelcome attention his way as he danced around the maypole. As I watched him that night I thought, “Relax! Have some fun! This is a celebration of community. Enjoy this time!”

Dear Friends:

Welcome! We send you warm greetings from your Quarter. We are so happy to welcome back Friends who have been with us for years, those who have been away for a few years, and especially to those who have not yet experienced what is special about Western Quarterly Meeting!

We are Shelley Hastings and Ariana Langford, both of Newark Monthly Meeting, and we are your new co-clerks. We have been involved in the Quarter for some time. Shelley has been clerk of the Nominating Committee for many years and has served multiple capacities in planning quarterly meetings and other roles – including a prior stint as co-clerk. She is also serving as co-clerk of Newark Monthly Meeting. Ariana served on the audit committee for several years prior to being the WQM treasurer for the past four years.

We are so EXCITED about what is going on in the Quarter - and what the coming years hold! The past two years have seen the planning and implementation of our First Day School Convergence, which has now been held three times. Last summer we watched London Grove celebrate its 300th anniversary and across the Quarter we answered the call, hosting a tour of meetinghouses – both active and historic. The Property Summit initiated a conversation about taking care of our historic landmarks which has also yielded ongoing efforts. Additionally, we are doing more activities with our neighbors in Concord Quarter,

Quarterly Meeting Worship, July 19th
Mill Creek Meeting, 10:30 am
Children’s program * potluck lunch* details pg. 2

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which increases the opportunities for our youth. What’s not to be excited about?!

I confess that we are also a bit nervous. Our goal is to lead through service, but we want to do it well! We hope to continue to build on the good things that have been going on in the Quarter. And of course we want to do things ‘properly.’

Then I remember my son’s somber face. We are here to celebrate OUR community! As your co-clerks, we commit to doing our part with joy. We look forward to YOU joining us in this celebration, to worship, to learn, to serve, to have fun, and to grow in our faith, individually and as community.

See you at the maypole! Or at least at next Quarterly Meeting!

Yours in the Light,

Shelley Hastings and Ariana Langford

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**Western Quarterly Meeting § All-Quarter Meeting for Worship**

at Mill Creek Friends Meeting

**Sunday, July 19th — 10:30 am**

Join Friends from throughout Western Quarter as we come together for Worship and fellowship at Mill Creek Meeting. Mill Creek is one of the smallest Monthly Meetings in Western Quarter, and our goal for this Sunday in July is to fill the benches with f/Friends, and the room with our Gathered Spirit. Friends are invited to stay for a causal **potluck-picnic lunch after the rise of Meeting**.

A children’s program is offered during Meeting for Worship. They will be discussing the Community testimony, and making mosaic stepping stones. Please contact Robin Harper to register: (youth@westernquarterquakers.org)

**Schedule:**

10:30 Meeting for Worship  
11:30 Potluck-picnic lunch & fellowship  
12:30 Quarterly Meeting for Business

**Mill Creek Meeting House is located at 1140 Doe Run Road, Newark, DE.**
Racism, Hate, Violence, Injustice — How Do We Respond? And….Are We Called To Action, Yet?

Recent events in Ferguson, Baltimore, and now Charleston, SC have ripped the veil from American society’s “I’m ok, you’re ok” façade. Many Friends I know are seasoned activists, and were not so disillusioned as those not already engaged. Others of us could always see all was not “right” with the world, but felt helpless to address such disparities with one small voice. Still more of us are cringing from this new awareness, finding it difficult to accept. Even with the pain now firmly in our hearts, and the reality staring us in the face, we are not sure how to respond, or where to begin. The Query we are asked to respond to at this month’s Quarterly Meeting strikes me as a good place to start. Dig deep into these questions, then bring your aching heart and open mind to join with others. Silence serves us well, but it has its place. Let it guide us to action—write-large and rightly-ordered. —Sarah Kastriner

To read a letter from Charleston Friends Meeting about their initial response to the shooting in June, read the letter from their Clerk posted here: http://westernquarterquakers.org/how-to-respond-to-charleston/

Sixth Query — Equality

For the Meeting:
• How does our Meeting help to create and maintain a society whose institutions recognize and do away with the inequities rooted in patterns of prejudice and economic convenience?
• Is our Meeting open to all regardless of race, ability, sexual orientation, or class?
• What steps are we taking as a Meeting to assure that our Meeting and the committees and institutions under our care reflect our respect for all and are free from practices rooted in prejudice?

For the Individual:
• Do I examine myself for aspects of prejudice that may be buried, including beliefs that seem to justify biases based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, class, and feelings of inferiority or superiority?
• What am I doing to help overcome the contemporary effects of past and present oppression?
• Am I teaching my children, and do I show through my way of living, that love of God includes affirming the equality of people, treating others with dignity and respect, and seeking to recognize and address that of God within every person?

Mostafa Rokooie and Sara Nazari are from Iran. They have been in the US for 9 months, and first visited a Friends Meeting in April. They were curious, and as computer scientists they naturally searched online to find out more about the Religious Society of Friends. They soon discovered there was no such information online in their native language. As they learned more about Friends through their attendance, they decided to share their experiences in a blog called Persian Friends (persian-friends.com), writing in their mother tongue so that other Persian speakers (and seekers!) might learn about Quakers, too. Below are two excerpts from their blog, translated into English.

Mostafa writes: “After moving to Kennett Square and getting familiar with Kennett Friends Meeting through a friend, Sara and I decided to attend meetings. Our experience in the first meeting was wonderful, so we are continuing it every week. We decided to build a website and write our weekly experience in Meetings in our mother tongue, Persian. Now the website has good content about Meetings and Quakerism and we will continue logging our experience.”

From another post written by Sara:
“Time we’re walking from home to the meeting, our apartment is located in the heart of Kennett Square and it is a ten minute walk to the Meeting House. I have a better feeling about going there this time because I feel there are some people waiting for us. It's 10:45 and the worship will start at 11. Today is the first Sunday of June, so they will serve refreshments after worship downstairs. We entered the building; there is a library in front of the main hall, where some members are sitting and talking together. A nice person came and welcomed us, and told us the discussion in the room is called Quakerism 101. They are discussing their questions and this week the subject is "Are we (Quakers) Christians?" I think that is a very important question and wish I was in the discussion. . . . “
Upcoming Events
(underlined titles are weblinks in digital editions of the newsletter)

July 18th  Movie Night, Hockessin MM
5:00 pm Babe; 6:30 pizza dinner; 7:15 Little Buddha

July 19th  Quarterly Meeting, 10:30 am, Mill Creek Friends Meeting

July 19th  Dining for Women, 5:30 pm, West Grove Friends Meeting

July 29 -Aug 2  PYM Annual Sessions

August 6th  Quakers & the Underground Railroad in the Coatesville Area Chester County town tours begins at 5:30 from 76 S. 1st Ave, Coatesville.

August 13th  Historic West Grove Borough Chester County town tour, includes the Old West Grove Meeting House. Tours begin at 5:30 from West Grove Memorial playground lot.

August 23rd  Picnic & Tubing event: details below or online

September 19th  Save the date for New Garden Friends Meeting 300th year celebration!

Job Posting: FDS Teacher Needed
Kennett Monthly Meeting seeks a First Day School teacher for middle school ages. Small class, creative kids. Must be skilled at managing enormous amounts of enthusiasm & creativity, as well as fielding probing questions.
Sundays, 9:30 am - noon, Sept - May. Contact dmcharper@yahoo.com if interested.

Members and attenders of monthly meetings in Concord and Western Quarters are invited to enjoy a pot luck picnic and tubing down the West Branch of the Brandywine Creek. This is a super-fun event for Friends of all ages! Meet at MaryEtta Clendenin's (location below), August 23rd, 12:30 - 4:30.

What will be there:  * shade, good friends, good times  * tubes, chairs, volleyball net, some life jackets  * hot dogs and buns, drinks, plates, napkins, utensils

What to bring:  * dish to share, favorite drinks, water bottles  * sunscreen, towels, swimsuits, tubes and life jackets if you have them (extras may be needed)  * more friends, games, instruments, Rise Up Singing!!

What tubers need to know:
* you will be required to sign a hold harmless agreement at the site; children under 18 must have permission slips signed by parents (available online here), and will be there at the picnic.
* young children must wear a flotation device  * parents are responsible for their children and will be asked to help with “creek watching” to ensure everyone’s safety

To the Clendenin’s: Address is 1005 Brandywine Creek Rd., Coatesville PA 19320. Map available online. Contact Sarah Kastriner for more information at 610-444-1012 - or coordinator@westernquartertakers.org
Update on Child Welfare Clearances Needed by Meeting Volunteers

Good news for Meeting volunteers working with children! You will still have to have security clearances, but if you wait until after July 25th, you can have them done for free. Gov. Wolfe announced in early June that fees for child abuse clearances and criminal background checks required by the Child Protective Services Law will be waived for volunteers working with children. (source) For more information about the new laws, refer to the post 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 there to help if you need it.

Westtown School Chosen to Host Continuing Sessions this Fall

PYM is laying down Interim Meeting sessions. In their place we will be gathering to conduct the business of PYM during periodic Continuing Sessions: day-long events that will be like the best of Annual Sessions packed into a single day, intended to draw and involve Friends from throughout the PYM community.

Westtown School has been chosen as the location for the FIRST Continuing Sessions event, to take place on Saturday, November 7, 2015. Westtown is part of Concord Quarter, and they will be taking the lead on organization and hospitality— but many of us in Western Quarter are very nearby. Friends will be coming from near and far for this event, so please consider hosting those traveling long distances to attend Continuing Sessions on the nights of Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7. We would like to have a list of accommodations available well in advance of November. If you are interested and have space available, please contact Charlie Spadoni, Concord Quarterly Meeting Coordinator, via email: concordquarter@pym.org

Details about Continuing Sessions will be posted online as they emerge, as well as communicated in the fall Quarterly newsletter.

PYM Connect! is a new and exciting way for Friends, seekers and others interested in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Quaker faith to connect with one another. PYM Connect consists of six features, each of which brings together information and ways to collaborate that are available any time, anywhere in an easy-to-use way.

Explore these opportunities to connect with others:
- Online Conversations
- Attend an Event
- Online Newsletters
- Latest News
- Visit a Meeting
- Connect on Social Media

Find out more at PYM Connect!

Quakers are on YouTube!

QuakerSpeak videos show interviews with Friends of all different backgrounds as they address the core questions of our faith. These interviews are personal and intimate. Click the picture above to hear Western Quarter’s former coordinator, Zachary Dutton (and others) speak about sitting in silence. Or click here: http://quakerspeak.com/how-quakers-can-help-end-mass-incarceration/ to hear Friends speak about the problem of mass incarceration, and what we can do about it. New videos come out every Thursday.
Minutes of the Business Meeting Session of Western Quarterly Meeting held on 19 April 2015 at West Grove Friends Meeting (approved)

Western Quarterly Business Meeting was held at West Grove Friends Meeting. Friends from Centre, Fallowfield, Kennett, Kendal, London Grove, Marlborough, Mill Creek, Newark, New Garden, and West Grove Meetings met to constitute the second session of Western Quarterly Meeting (WQM) in 2015 at 1:00 PM.

15.23— Friends approved the minutes of the Western Quarterly Meeting (WQM)’s Support Committee Meeting held on 22 March 2015 at Kennett Monthly Meeting.

15.24— Financial Report and 2016 Budget Process

Budgetary Report— Treasurer Ariana Langford of Newark Meeting provided and reviewed Western Quarterly Meeting’s FY2015 Profit Loss and Balance Sheets. We will not be in a deficit as previously thought.

15.25—Uniform Budgeting Process

Unified Budget— Historical summary about Unified Budget within Western Quarterly Meeting provided by Clerk Pam Leland.

Proposal— (see attached)

Lengthy Discussion followed about Uniform Budgeting Process and its implications to Western Quarterly Meeting.

15.26— Marlborough Meeting; Request to Quarterly Meeting

Chip Thomas of Marlborough Meeting read correspondence dated March 16, 2015 requesting a separation from Western Quarter to join Rockingham Quarterly Meeting of Ohio Yearly Meeting for membership in that body. The letter also attests that on Fourth Month 11th 2015, Rockingham accepted Marlborough’s request, contingent upon a separation from Western Quarter. The request was made that this release be in love. After the reading, Clerk Pam Leland requested the formation of a Clearness Committee for Marlborough MM. At this time Mark Myers (London Grove), and Richard Bernard (Hockessin) have agreed to serve on this committee. Ariana Langford (Newark) also volunteered. Friends agreed that Clerk Pam Leland could populate the committee with two more members, if necessary.

15.27— Leadership Needs in Western Quarterly Meeting— Clerk Pam Leland formally announced that Friends Ariana Langford and Shelley Hastings, both of Newark Monthly Meeting, agreed to Co-Clerk WQM. The Western Quarterly Meeting honored the request of Clerk Pam Leland to accept her nomination of Shelley Hastings, since Friend Shelley Hastings serves as Clerk of Nominating Committee. The Western Quarterly Meeting happily accepted both nominations for the position of Co-Clerks. They will start in July 2015, but, in the meanwhile, will work with the presiding Clerk and Coordinator of the WQM in a transition process. Western Quarterly Meeting still needs the following leadership positions: Clerk of Nominating Committee; Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer; Assistant Recording Clerk, and an Auditor.

15.28— July Quarterly Meeting— Next Quarterly Meeting will be Sunday, July 19th. There is no Monthly Meeting assigned as host. It was proposed that we meet at 10:30 AM at Mill Creek Friends Meeting for Worship only (no adult program), with picnic following the Meeting for Worship. A children’s program will be offered during worship. Business Meeting for Western Quarterly Meeting will occur after the picnic. There were some concerns about the heat in July and Mill Creek’s lack of air conditioning, and how that might affect Friends with health issues. It was decided that more planning was needed, after Mill Creek considers (and approves) the hosting of QM on this date.

15.29— Annual Reports

State of Meeting Report. Friends of Kendal Meeting written by Patricia Hunt, Clerk Ad Hoc Committee for State of the Meeting Report, approved at Kendal Monthly Meeting, Fourth Month 9th 2015 sent a report read by Clerk Pam Leland. The letter highlighted growth, appointment of Clerk, volunteerism, virtual meetings when illness occurred, deepening of spiritual life, Quaker Teas (reach out to attendees and new to Quakerism), sharing that a minute against military drones was approved, sharing of a letter in support of medical staff treating Ebola victims was sent, and new directions for the meeting.

Trustees of Friends Home— Report to be shared in July 2015.

Inactive Meetings of Historical Interest— Dated Fourth Month 2015: “During 2014, Meetings of Worship were held at Homeville, Pennsgrove, and London Britain Meetinghouses on the same schedule as past years. We are grateful that Newark Meeting once again plans to meet weekly at London Britain so that the Meetinghouse has a “used” appearance to the community, showing that the building and property are important to someone. The Committee was pleased to be involved in the last Summer’s Meetinghouse...”
Tour as part of London Grove Meeting’s 300th Anniversary. All of the closed Meetinghouses had good attendance. The Tour allowed those in the community to see inside the Meetinghouses without actually having to attend Meeting for Worship, and gave the hosts the opportunity to explain the basics of Quakerism. Friends are invited to extend their worship opportunities by attending some of these Meetings. The Committee has no funds under its care. For the Committee, Mary M. Sproat.”

Nominating and Organization Committee—Minute of Appreciation for service to Western Quarterly Meeting will be drafted by Coordinator Sarah Kastriner for Pam Leland (London Grove) for serving as Clerk, Ariana Langford (Newark) for serving as Treasurer, and Shelley Hastings (Newark) for serving as Nominating Clerk.

15.30—Coordinator Report & Updates on Recent and Future Gatherings
April 26th Ropes course for Quaker Youth (with Concord QM). Financial support will be available from the Quarter for WQ participants; amount to be determined.
June 7 FDS Convergence at Wilmington Friends;
June 28 Tubing on the Brandywine & Picnic (with Concord QM);
Western Quarterly Meeting’s Property Survey distributed. Request was made to have it completed and returned by July 1, 2015; Next Support Committee Meeting: Sunday, June 14th at Kennett Monthly Meeting, 3 PM.

15.31—Responses to the Third Query on Spiritual Nurture, Ministry, and Religious Education. Responses from Centre MM, Fallowfield MM, Kennett MM, Mill Creek MM, and West Grove MM were shared.

Respectfully Submitted,
tonya thames taylor, Recording Clerk
Given a lack of unity, Friends approved the continuation of certain specific practice(s), i.e., items #1 and #2 above. In approving these items, it was recognized that one or more Meetings might choose, at some point in the future, to act independently and send funds directly to PYM.

Friends also approved Item #3. This represents a change to current practice and was identified as a need because PYM wants to know how the funds forwarded by WQ to PYM should be allocated between “covenant” and “annual fund.” Friends were in agreement that the Quarter Treasurer should not make this decision for member Meetings but only fulfill a Meeting’s intention.

The Clerk agreed to send a letter to Monthly Meeting Clerks regarding this change in how Meeting contributions to PYM are reported to WQ. Friends recognized that Meetings may not fully understand this change and may require additional information or presentations to Meetings in the Quarter.

Finally, Friends approved Item #4, i.e., asking certain Meetings to review, revise and/or re-affirm its position on solicitation of Meeting members by PYM. At this point, Hockessin, Kendal, Kennett and London Grove all allow PYM to solicit its members. Newark Meeting recently affirmed its decision to not allow PYM to solicit its members. Meetings impacted by this Item include New Garden, West Grove, Centre, Fallowfield and Mill Creek. [Marlborough Meeting was not mentioned in this discussion given its position on PYM.]

15.35 – Current vacant leadership positions were reviewed. At this point among Officer positions, the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Recording Clerk positions are vacant. A new clerk of the Nominating Committee is also needed.

Efforts to identify and recruit candidates continue, but no one has yet agreed to serve. One Friend noted that the complicated nature of the Unified Budgeting Process made the Treasurer’s role more complicated. The decision to get more explicit information from Meetings regarding the PYM allocation might make the work of the Treasurer less onerous.

15.36 – PYM’s request for a representative to a short-term Nominating Committee (to populate two new PYM committees) was reviewed. Linda Pastor had agreed to serve in this role. There was no information available (among those in attendance) as to the details of this role in terms of length of this appointment, the frequency of meetings, etc. As a result of our discussion, Linda Pastor expressed discomfort in fulfilling this role and withdrew her offer of participation.

15.37 – Treasurer Ariana Langford provided an update on the status of our book-keeping services. Friends agreed to continue with Richard Wortmann and Associates (the firm that took over for Brandywine Accounting), pending placement of a new book-keeper.

15.38 – Finance Committee Clerk Richard Logan reviewed a draft of the FY16 budget. It was noted that more funds are being provided to the Quarter my several Meetings. These new funds along with reduced expenses allow for a proposed budget in which revenues closely match anticipated expenses. Friends approved the draft with only minor changes. The budget will be presented at the July Quarterly Meeting for approval.

15.39 – Plans for July’s Quarterly Gathering at Mill Creek were reviewed. Friends approved the rental of a “port-a-potty” for approximately $120. The various volunteer needs were reviewed with the expectation that our Coordinator will seek assistance from various Friends.

15.40 – A report on Youth Activities was provided by Robin Harper. Friends expressed appreciation for the work being done and the planning that has been done for the upcoming year.

15.41 – Mary Sproat, convener of the Ad Hoc Property Task Force, reported that she has not received any completed surveys. The Clerk will include a reminder of this survey in her missive on the Unified Budgeting Process.

15.42 – Our time was concluded with a time of brief worship, with the intention of gathering together again for business at our Quarterly Meeting at Mill Creek Meeting in July.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Leland, Clerk
Sixth Month 14, 2015
BRINGING TOGETHER A NEIGHBORHOOD OF FRIENDS

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

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WesternQuarterQuakers.org
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Kendenn Friends Meeting
125 W. Sickle Street
610-444-1012

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

Find Worship times and locations at:
westernquarterquakers.org
under the “Our Community” tab