

Western Quarterly News

of the Religious Society Of Friends

Western Quarterly Meeting Newsletter

April 2016

FROM THE CO CLERKS

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Spring Greetings, Friends!

How does spring move **your** spirit? Is it the sound of birds in the morning, the daffodils' opening act in an oncoming parade of blooms, or the warmth of the sun that stirs you deep inside? How do these and other beacons of nature's renewal feel to you?

As the first week of spring unfolds around us, just in time for Easter, I am filled with Hope.

The news of the world is distressing. The politics of anger and hate consume all in their path. Reports this morning of the terrorist attacks in Belgium shock and sadden us. One friend texted me that she heard there had been a nuclear attack (the misinformation and rumors that leak out!) and for a moment I wondered if another pivotal moment in history had occurred.

How can I write this very day about Hope?

A quote from Martin Luther comes to mind: "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." This reminds me of the optimism I have witnessed among Friends. I am humbled to be associated with a group of people who so consistently, in so many ways, continue to challenge the world to be a better place; people who continue to "walk cheerfully over this world, answering that of God in everyone."

This past weekend was a perfect reminder of what I love about the Religious Society of Friends. On Saturday I attended Continuing Sessions at Arch Street Meeting in Philadelphia. PYM continues to implement its new structure and all the hard work is beginning to blossom, even as efforts are ongoing and unfolding. On Sunday, a few of us joined London Grove Meeting for meaningful worship, lively discussion and warm hospitality.

In stark contrast to the world according to CNN, among Friends, hope abounds. Mostly.

In this Issue:

From the Co-Clerks

First Query

Undoing Racism Update

April Quarterly Meeting at Centre MM (details)

Hockessin MM FDS

Fundraiser Success!

Upcoming Events

January OM Minutes

February SC Minutes (draft)

Ask Friends about children's First Day School attendance and programs, or ask about the numbers of active participants in Meetings, and a dark cloud passes over their faces. Perhaps you do not even need to ask these prompting questions. The concern is raised frequently at the monthly, quarterly and yearly meeting levels.

When Zachary Dutton was the Coordinator for the Quarter, he offered the thought that we are not in crisis mode, that we are, in fact, doing quite well. He suggested that rather than bemoan what we don't have, we focus on what is going well, then build upon that.

I was reminded of this advice during a recent discussion on the vitality of monthly meetings. What makes a meeting vital? If there is meaningful worship among a limited number of Friends who support each other in community, is that vital? Or is a meeting only vital if it has a large number of worshippers and a robust children's program? Clearly Friends have differing views. I hear concerns that our very existence as a religious society is being threatened by declining numbers and an advancing median age. I understand these concerns. They are legitimate. So we must ask,



how does Spirit guide us to respond?

Zachary's perspective is reminiscent of what was once called New Age thinking that advised people to focus on the positive to attract more positive. Today a similar approach is used in dialectical behavioral therapy, with its emphasis on the present moment, building gratitude and tracking positive

steps. Pay attention to what you want to build, and allow the negative to fall away.



So what might we focus upon? Friends, when we can share deep worship, fellowship and mutual support; when we can demonstrate Love in a world of anger and hate; a commitment to peace in an increasingly violent world; are we not a breath of fresh air to seekers looking for a different way? Let us not get caught up in wringing our hands and worrying about our future. Let us join hands, celebrate our faith, and be a beacon of hope to seekers. As the spring breezes blow away the winter staleness, may our love refresh our religious community and awaken those around us.

Happy Spring Planting Friends!

In Peace, Ariana Langford, WQM Co-clerk

First Query - Meeting for Worship

For the Meeting:

Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God?

As we worship is there a living silence in which we are drawn together by the power of God in our midst?

Is the spirit of our worship together one that nurtures all worshipers?

How does our Meeting respond when the vocal ministry seems inappropriate, or when the meeting

For the Individual:

Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, and expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?

Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness, and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationship with others?

Have I experienced in worship that direct leading to listen or to speak, and have I been faithful to my own experience?

Update on "Undoing Racism" in the Kennett Area—a note from the WQM Coordinator

One outcome of our January QM discussion was the shared desire to become more aware and active in our efforts to "undo racism" in our selves, our systems, and our communities. There was an acknowledgement that an interfaith or collaborative group would be more effective than "just Friends" trying to tackle these issues, and I was tasked with investigating possibilities as well as keeping others (who signed up) in the loop. The very next week I learned of a series of "conversations on race" being planned locally by a single (motivated!) woman, and connected with her soon after. Since February Western Quarter Friends have been part of forming a loose coalition that also includes the MLK Advocates and the ISMS group from the Church of the Open Door. Two "conversations" have been held already, with regular conversations planned for the fourth Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm (locations vary). The focus is on honest discourse, open listening, and making real connections with the people in our community. The next "Conversation on Race" will be April 26, 6:30 pm at La Comunidad Hispana to discuss Kevin Powell's article, Will Racism Ever End, Will I Ever Stop Being a Nigger?

It is my sense that this coalition will continue to grow in numbers and purpose. Friends with a leading to examine whatever part they do (and should) play in a society that still systematically oppresses "others" are encouraged to join us. — Sarah Kastriner

Please Note: Registration for lunch is requested, so our hosts know how much of the main dish to make. Register via email (coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org) or by calling the office: 610-444-1012. The children's program will be a fun morning of "meditative movement," including a labyrinth walk and a version of Tai Chi, as well a story, crafts and lots of friends!

Quarterly Meeting Sunday, April 17th, 2016

location: Centre Meeting

311 Center Road & Adams Dam Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19807 parking is available at the Meeting House and the School House



ADULT PROGRAM

African American abolitionists: presentation by and discussion with Michele Sullivan

9:00am ~ Registration with refreshments in the School House (400 Center Meeting Road; across the road, east of the Meeting House)

9:30am ~ *Underground Railroad* presentation in the School House

10:45am ~ break

11:00am ~ Meeting for Worship in the Meeting House

> noon ~ Lunch in the School House REGISTRATION REQUESTED

1:00pm ~ Meeting for Business in the Meeting House

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Babysitting provided

9:30 -10:45am ~ Youth Program

10: 45am ~ Children may accompany parents to Meeting for Worship

11: 40am ~ Children join Meeting for Worship in the Meeting House

Children's program concludes at lunch.

noon ~ Lunch in the School House REGISTRATION REQUESTED

To register for lunch, please e-mail:

COORDINATOR GWESTERNOUARTEROUAKERS.ORG

Please bring an item to share based on the first letter of your last name:

A - J : please bring a side dish to share

K - P: please bring a dessert to share

Q - Z: please bring two beverages to share



On Saturday, February 27, under the guidance of chief chef Rose Rupert, the First Day School children and youth served up bowls of delicious spaghetti, homemade sauce (Rose's family recipe), and salad, and then hosted a silent auction of donated services and treasures. Thank you to everyone who helped and came out! The event generated more than \$480! Added to proceeds from their pancake breakfast and cookie sale, the First Day School young folks have raised \$860 toward the renovations of our FDS shed classrooms (exceeding their initial goal of \$500). Adults, take note!

Hockessin Spaghetti Fundraiser By Maggie Leon

Hello, my name is Maggie Leon and I am a member of Hockessin Friends Meeting. Let's go back to the beginning and talk about why Hockessin Friends Meeting needed to have a spaghetti fundraiser. We were

collecting money to build a new building for the Firstday school. The old one was such a mess! I remember when Rosie, our teacher, went into a cupboard in our old building looking for flour: she found it already opened with paw prints all over it! We later found other evidence of a raccoon in the building. Racoons are cute, but they are also destructive and can spread disease. We already knew that the building was falling apart because it was very old, and that sometime soon we would need to redo the building, but this was the last straw (or paw).

The Meeting children decided that we needed to have a fundraiser to earn money for building our new Firstday school building. We decided that it would be best to cook food because we have successfully collected money that way before, so we chose to make spaghetti. Including sales of the toma-

to sauce we also offered, combined with a silent auc-



tion we ended up collecting over \$750.

Now I am going to interview my younger brother Robbie, who also helped out at the fundraiser.

- "Robbie, what did you like the most about the fundraiser?"
- "I enjoyed being the cashier and practicing my math facts."
- "Okay, did you like any of the cooking parts?"
- "Yes I enjoyed cooking as well."
- " What did you think about the food?"
- "The food was very good."

Thank you for reading this article. You are welcome to stop by Hockessin Friends Meeting anytime!



Robbie as cashier

Report of Pennsgrove Meeting Property Trustees to Western Quarterly Meeting in 2016

This year we spent \$1,470 on mowing and weedeating the grounds, paid to B.W. Bowman Landscaping, Inc. Property and liability insurance cost \$500.00, with \$43,704 on building and \$500,000 liability limit. We had to spend \$8,125 on the removal of a large tree to avoid further damage to the front porch and foundations, caused by the roots. We paid Steve Brun \$2,300 to paint exterior of the building. We paid James Groff \$337.50 for rear wall review that is bulging out. We paid Ortega Consulting, LLC \$435.24 to review roof and rafter problems. Finally, we paid James Topper Building Services, Inc. \$34,528.96 to fix rafters and replace slate roof.

Our investment balances as of 1/6/2016:

BBT Checking Account \$1,956.74 Friends Fiduciary Accounts \$169,906.11 Total \$171,862.85

We are also sad to report that Trustee Clerk Donald K. Pusey died in the spring of 2015. He was buried at Pennsgrove. Signed by Members of the committee: Pat Mooberry, Mary Sproat, John Pusey

Upcoming Events

April 9 YARD SALE at Kennett Friends Meeting. 8:00 am—noon. Proceeds benefit Social Services & FDS programs. Donations of items accepted, now through April 7. Contact Sarah Kastriner (info@kennettfriends.org) for drop off times.

April 9 Performance by singer-songwriter Jen Chapin at the Oxford Friends Meeting House. Doors open at 7:00pm and the performance starts at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$12 for adults, Children 12 and under are free.

April 16 Friendship Night at Hockessin Friends Meeting. 6:00 pm Potluck/ 7:00 pm Program: Ron Robertson will speak on "New Developments in Medical Diagnostics and Treatment." This lecture will touch on the societal and economic impacts of new technology.

April 23 Youth Event - Ropes Course Event at Westtown School for Children in grades 3 to 12, 8:45 am to 3:00 pm. Younger & older children will alternate between tackling the ropes course and an adventuresome hike that will take them to little known parts of the campus. For the days schedule, details, and necessary release forms see the event listing online (click here), or contact the WQM Coordinator. **Registration required by April 10th.**

April 23 The Crisis in Burundi and the Quaker Response 11:00 am in the Farm House at Kendal. Presented by Elie Nahimana, the Administrative Coordinator of the Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities Program in Burundi, a part of the Friends Peace Teams African Great Lakes Initiative.

April 26 *Conversations on Race* discussion group, 6:30 pm. This month we will meet at La Comunidad Hispana to discuss Kevin Powell's article, *Will Racism Ever End, Will I Ever Stop Being a Nigger?*

April 29 – May 1 PYM's Middle and High School Programs at Camp Swatara in Bethel, PA. Details at PYM.org

Transportation available! Register to take the van that will depart from West Chester MM (425 N High St., West Chester) at 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 29 and return at about 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 1. If you are interested in such transportation, contact the Coordinator no later than April 9, 2016.

April 30 YARD SALE at Centre Friends Meeting to benefit refugee work.

Dining for Women

Noon on third Sundays at West Grove Friends Meeting

April 17: Hands In Outreach (Kathmandu, Nepal)

May 15: African People & Wildlife Fund (Maasai Steppe, Tanzania)

June 19: CATW-LAC (Mexico)

April 30 *LOOK TO THE LIGHT – Our Spiritual Basis for Action* at Middletown MM, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. One-day workshop led by Quaker Minister Ralph Green. middletownquakers.org

May 14 YARD SALE 9:00 am-1:00 pm at 4 Havertown Rd, Newark, co-sponsored by Newark Friends Meeting. Proceeds benefit Dawn's Place, and women who been subject to commercial sexual exploitation (sex trafficking).

May 24 *Conversations on Race* discussion group, 6:30 pm. Topic: Colored Conventions, the Precursor to the NAACP presented by Denise Burgher, graduate student at the University of Delaware. Location TBD.

May 28 Family Movie Night at Hockessin Friends Meeting. Horton Hears a Who! and Cesar Chavez. Times TBA.

June 26 Tubing on the Brandywine at Friend Mary Etta Clendenin's house, 12:30-4:30 pm. Tubes available at the site, Potluck picnic lunch, bring a dish to share. Another joint event with our Friends in Concord Quarter.

Historic Meetings Summer Worship Schedule 2016

London Britain Meeting 10:30 am Each First Day, 5/29 thru 9/4

Old Kennett Meeting 9 am 6/26, 7/31 & 8/28

Pennsgrove Meeting 10 am 6/26, 7/24 & 8/28

Homeville Meeting 2 pm 5/29 & 8/28

Parkersville Meeting 2 pm 9/11

Locations and directions available on the WQM website.

Employment Opportunity

Western Quarter seeks a part-time Youth Activities Coordinator. The YAC is responsible for arranging and managing the children's programs during Quarterly Meeting (4 times a year) as well as working with others in the Quarter to plan and implement other youth activities several times a year. Click here for the full posting and job description. Please submit a resume and cover letter outlining interest and experience to: coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org



Western Quarterly Meeting with attention to Business – First Month 17, 2016

Shelley Hastings, Co-Clerk

Quarterly Meeting was held at Hockessin Friends Monthly Meeting, with great appreciation to our hosts. Friends from Centre, Kendal, Kennett, London Grove, West Grove, Hockessin, and Newark were in attendance.

We began at 12:48 with silent worship, and the reading of a query for reflection on the spirit of worship in our Meetings. Out of the silence, two responses were shared. One Friend said she was truly energized and enriched by the quality of our worship when we gather as Quarterly Meeting, especially this morning's gathering, worship and lunch. She hopes that that energy and Light would carry over to our business, and sustain us. She invited more Light into our process. Another Friend recounted her experience of helping with a Reiki treatment on a horse in a bitter cold stall, and that, because the horse allowed the energy to flow- the whole stall was suffused with a warmth that lasted through the night. Our Gathered Meetings are like this experience, she said - it won't work if you block it; you have to let the Light through.

16.80- Minutes from Nov 13 Support Committee meeting were considered and approved.

16.81- Treasurer's Report-Stan Glowiak

Budget Report: A computer crash at the office recently necessitated that the bookkeeper use a back up copy the quarter's QB, and as a result, some of the items didn't add up. The revised report (handouts attached) is as accurate as possible. Transition to a new treasurer has had a few bumps along the way; such as when the bank gave Stan access to the wrong account at first. The timing of the holidays and the end of the year delayed some covenant payments into January, as well as payments from our Friends Fiduciary accounts. Checks were sent (and cashed) in January. Our Friends Fiduciary accounts decreased in value by \$17,712 with the stock market decline between May – December 2015. Other amounts on our books are within range.

Friends Fiduciary is now requiring two signatures when withdrawing funds from designated accounts. Mark Myers (LGMM & member of FFC board) explained further that a MM treasurer was able to steal a large sum of money from that Meeting's accounts, prompting the adoption of a more rigorous process so that doesn't happen again. WQM needs to approve another person(s) in addition to the treasurer for these transactions. Members approved the addition of the WQM assistant treasurer (Dick Logan) as second signor, and co-clerks (Ariana & Shelley) as alternates. Stan will get the information to FFC. Friends Fiduciary has also sent a new agreement to be signed and returned by May. The new agreement puts the responsibility for any(future) legal defense solely on FFC and absolves WQM of responsibility. It was suggested and approved that the WQM officers should sign the agreement.

16.82- Updates on WQM staff

As reported in November, Robin Harper has stepped down as Youth Activities Coordinator. Greta Rech stepped in to organize and implement January QM youth program, but will not be able to continue in the position. There is an active group of families with youth in the quarter – and this work is important to the life of our quarter. The position still needs to be filled.

16.83- Update on Marlborough Monthly Meeting

Co-clerk Ariana Langford read an email sent to the quarter by a Marlborough member, asking for reconsideration of our approval for Marlborough to transfer membership to Rockingham Quarter (OYM). Through discussion it was affirmed that process was followed by both MMM and WQM in the discernment of the release. The request was made after many years of consideration and discernment. The release was approved after WQM convened a special Clearness Committee, which met multiple times over the course of a year, including once with Marlborough members. It is understood that the letterwriter was present at at least one of those meetings, and though not in unity with the transfer, agreed to stand aside. Friends present proposed that our response should be that process was followed, and not in haste, and that WQM is not led to reconsider our approval. So approved. Any change in the affiliation of Marlborough MM would have to come from within the Meeting, not from WQM.

We were reminded that Friends present at WQM Support Committee and/or Business Meetings should be bringing news and information back to their home Meetings, so that all are aware of changes and events in the Quarter.

16.84 Monthly Meeting Visitations

In an effort to strengthen our ties to each other within the Quarter, we would like to encourage inter-visitation among Friends in our Monthly Meetings. Those interested were invited to "sign up" to visit one (or more) Monthly Meetings within

the Quarter over the next several months, and encouraged to identify themselves to the host MM as Friends from Western Quarter (as well as their own MM).

Ten Friends signed up to make 22 visits to other Meetings in the Quarter.

16.85 Coordinator's Report

Friend Paula Klein (Westtown MM) is asking Quarterly and Monthly Meetings to consider the environmental impact of their investments, particularly what industries we may be supporting through our fiduciary funds. Friends agreed this should be a future agenda item.

Plans are being made for April QM, hosted by Centre MM – details to follow. Other events: Concord & Western Quarters are co-sponsoring a roller skating event on February 28th; WQM will cover ticket & skate rental costs for members who request it. This will be part of the "youth programs" budget. Reminder that March 29th will be the second PYM Continuing Sessions, to be held at Arch St. MH in Philadelphia.

WQM for Business closed with a moment of silence at 1:44 pm.

Annual Meeting of Western Quarterly Meeting, Inc. was called to order on January 17, 2016 at 1:45 pm

The by-laws of WQM, Inc. are due for review. It is agreed the current by-laws will be distributed and reviewed in the coming year. One Friends suggests it should be clear in our by-laws (if it is not already) the process for laying down or transferring membership of a Monthly Meeting. There is a clear process for starting a new MM, which involves PYM, though it does not seem PYM needed to be involved (only informed) with the transferring of Marlborough MM's membership.

Beyond getting the computers in the office updated, research also continues into WQM's legal obligations. Reference was found to the Quarter's "Articles of Incorporation" – but no such document could be found. Friend Mary Sproat thinks she may have a copy.

Property Committee Reports:

London Britain and Penns Grove property committees have both asked to defer their annual reports to April. Both committees and both buildings remain in good shape.

WQM, Inc. Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm

Next WQM Support Committee meeting will be Sunday, February 21, 2016 at 3 pm, Kennett Friends Meeting. Respectfully Submitted, Sarah Kastriner, WQM Coordinator, temporary recorder

DRAFT* Western Quarter Support Committee Meeting for Business – Second Month 21, 2016 * DRAFT

Shelley Hastings & Ariana Langford, Co-Clerks

Members of the Western Quarter Support Committee met at Kennett Friends Monthly Meeting. Friends from Centre, Kennett, London Grove, Fallowfield, New Garden, Hockessin, and Newark were in attendance. The meeting began at 3:05 pm with silent worship.

16.86- Minutes from Jan 17 Quarterly Meeting were considered and approved.

16.87- Bookkeeper discussion-Stan Glowiak— It is not clear that the working arrangement with our current bookkeeper is meeting our needs. We are a small account who needs someone to update our files on premises (in our office), once a month at the very least. We have been "in transition" between bookkeepers since last spring, when our contract with the previous accounting firm was bought out. Most recently there was a gap of more than two months between times when the bookkeeper updated the books and there were numerous discrepancies in the final reports. (This was complicated by the office computer crashing and the need to "rescue" the backup files.)

Friends agreed that it is time to make our needs known to the new company, as well as look into other options. The current treasurer, past treasurer, and clerk of Finance committee will also meet to go through the ledger and get the numbers balanced again.

After hearing about a fraudulent charge that was not caught until it was "too late," some discussion was had around using a bank debit/credit card, verses applying for a credit card (with better fraud protection). It was agreed that more timely attention to our bank statements would be a sufficient guard against fraudulent charges (this has only happened once in all the years we have banked with Citadel) at this time.

Continued next page

8

16.88- Status Updates

- a) Youth Activities Support There is a gap between what the coordinator does and the extra help in planning for WQM youth events. Suggestions were made for seeking someone to fill the position. In the meantime, the coordinator will hire the help needed for specific youth events, particularly Quarterly Meeting children's programs.
- **b)** Friends Support Committee Two applications were made last spring to the William Jackson Education Fund, but no grants have been awarded yet, despite efforts to contact the committee clerk. A London Grove Friend offered to connect with the two committee members from her MM and find out if they need support. The Support Committee is prepared to assist in taking care of last year's applicants and ensure that this year's application is sent out in the next few months.
- c) Property Surveys Surveys for five (5) properties in the quarter have been received. The committee needs to reach out to the MMs and independent property committees again; Ariana will work with Sarah on this. Copies of all London Britain documents were sent to the WQM office (years ago, prior to Zac) we need to see if we can find them.

 16.89- Update on April Quarterly Meeting plans—Centre MM has embraced the hosting of QM on Sunday, April 17, 2016. They have arranged a special "sprint" group to oversee the plans and hospitality. The morning program will be led by Michele Sullivan. She will be sharing with us new discoveries about the Underground Railroad much of which is interesting to Friends, and pertains to our current work on undoing racism. The children will be learning (and practicing) meditative movement through a labyrinth walk and tai chi chung. Centre is requesting someone to help with the childcare; Friends approved hiring someone from the morning. Sarah will make the arrangements. Lunch will mainly be provided by Centre Friends; guests are invited to contribute.
- 16.90 PYM Clerks & Coordinators meeting—Shelley, Ariana, and Sarah attended a meeting in Downingtown of quarter clerks & coordinators earlier this month. During the two hour meeting we heard about what is happening in other quarters throughout the YM (except there were no reps from NJ; we agreed to hold our next meeting across the river, so they might attend). Western Quarter seems to be right in the "middle" of what is happening. Many meetings have taken up the query on racism; the more urban meetings have been more active over the year, so we are able to learn from their experiences. Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting organized a seminar, but the original idea of a "panel" of oppressed/misunderstood people (people of color, homeless) struck some of the organizers as inappropriate, and was canceled. Instead they had a program led by Noah White, of PYM's Undoing Racism Group which was very successful and highly recommended. WQM might consider his program for the future.
- 16.91 Addressing Racism moving forward—There is a small group of Friends who identified themselves (at Jan. QM) as being interested in working through WQM on undoing racism. There are two ideas for moving forward between QMs:

 1) work within the community (ideally with other churches & existing groups) to organize & facilitate discussion on the topic of race. Sarah has a meeting on Monday with another woman from Kennett who is interested in the same thing.

 More to come. 2) Plan a one-day retreat/workshop for the Quarter with a speaker/facilitator to lead us through some of our questions/issues. The coordinator and clerks should work with the identified sprint group to bring this to fruition.

 16.92 Finance Committee report—All ten Monthly Meetings have responded to recent email asking for their covenant amounts. The commitments from the meetings with January FY (who have just approved new budgets) seem about the same as last year. A few MMs (Hockessin & Centre) anticipate a reduction in income from a particular fund, which may affect covenant amounts.

Monthly Meeting treasurers have been called to gather on April 17 in a "break out" session of QM, to preview and discuss the next WQM budget proposal. To prepare that proposal, Dick will need anticipated expenses for the coming FY, particularly payroll expenses.

Property Committee Reports—London Britain and Pennsgrove property committees have both asked to defer their annual reports to April. Both committees and both buildings remain in good shape.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:32 pm

Next WQM for business will be during Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at 1 pm, Centre Friends Meeting. Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Kastriner, WQM Coordinator, temporary recorder