Greetings Friends,

How does the Light shine in your life today? I opened my last letter to you with this query. Today, I am asking myself the same question.

This is the letter that almost didn’t happen. We have days, or weeks, in our lives when we are just trying to keep our heads above water; or get our feet underneath us. You know what I’m talking about. We’ve all had them. For me, these are times when I feel least capable of offering service to others. I’m trying to take care of my family, and the people I have responsibility to in the work I do. So yes, I’m having one of those crazy times — and so are a number of other people I am close to, all for different reasons. To compound the feeling, the drama in our personal lives is taking place against a backdrop of continued, and escalating tension and divisiveness, in our country and in the world. I am so tired of the propagation of fear and hate.

So how is the Light shining in my life today? One Friend offered to listen, or a space of silence instead. Another reminded me to hold myself gently, even as I try to hold others gently. My Facebook page brought up a memory from a few years ago that made me smile, and remember Love. A song came on the radio that caused me to sing out loud. In making arrangements to meet with a contractor I have never met I had to be clear that our appointment was tentative, given an unknown funeral date and uncertainty around my husband’s surgery. This stranger ended the call with a promise to hold me and my family in prayer.

Light is shining in my life today. I may not be shining as brightly as I do some days. I feel my best when Light can shine through me and allows me to serve others, but just because that is not happening right now, doesn’t mean that Light is not present.

Light is shining in my life today. How does it shine in yours?

No matter how it shines, or even if it casts shadows, you are not alone. If you are weary of the backdrop, or worn by a demanding chapter in your personal story, join us in October for Quarterly Meeting. You will be refreshed. If you are bubbling over with Light, join us for Quarterly Meeting. You will be nourished. Come, so that we may support each other, and hold each other up. Come, so we may celebrate connections made, while deepening them and building new. Come as you are, and leave a little more whole. This is our gift — to each other.

October Quarterly Meeting will continue our work of deepening our connections and making new ones. Robin Mohr will lead the morning program called “We Think We Are Separate” about bridging the distance we create between ourselves and “others”. (Details next page.)

Quarterly Meeting matters because community matters. Regardless of whether you have ever been to a Western Quarter gathering or not, I believe you will be happy you came. And I know we will be happy to have you join us!

Just don’t forget to RSVP that you’re coming! Until then, may the Light continue to shine abundantly in your life!

In gratitude,
Ariana Langford, Co-Clerk, Western Quarterly Meeting
Western Quarterly Meeting in October is hosted by Kendal Monthly Meeting Friends

Robin Mohr, of Friends World Committee for Consultation will present the morning program: 
*We Think We Are Separate.*

*We Think We’re Separate* — When we think about all the things we don’t want to be associated with, whether that is disease or child abuse or war, we think that we are separate. We are afraid of being con- nected. We construct walls in our minds and our hearts to convince ourselves that it’s not us, it’s not our problem, that we are separate, up until the day we can no longer pretend, until we find out it *is* us. “They” are us. Humans try to pretend it’s not us, that we’re separate. But God, Jesus, Quakers—all teach us that we are not separate.

Read more from Robin Mohr on the next page.....

*Lunch* *and fellowship will follow.*

*Registration required for lunch*  
— call 610-444-1012, or Email: coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org

**Adult Program:**

- **9:00 am** Registration with coffee & tea
- **9:15 am** Centering Worship & Introduction
- **9:30 am** Program: “We Think We are Separate”
- **11:00 am** 7th Query Responses & Worship
- **12 Noon** Lunch (Registration Required)
- **1:00 pm** Meeting for Business

**Children’s Program:**

- **9:15 am** All gather for centering Worship
- **9:30 am** Children program activities begin
- **10:45 am** Children & FDS teachers go swimming in Kendal’s indoor pool (lifeguard present)
- **12 Noon** Children join adults for lunch
Western Quarterly News October 2016

More about Robin Mohr

Robin Mohr has served as Executive Secretary of the Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas since 2011. Over the last 25 years, Robin has worked in administration, fundraising, and planning for a half-dozen non-profit organizations, in D.C, New York, and San Francisco. She and her husband Christopher are now members of Green Street Monthly Meeting in Philadelphia YM and have two sons, now in high school and college. She writes for Quaker magazines, books and her own blog, What Canst Thou Say? robinmsf.blogspot.com.

Listening in Tongues (transcript)

For Quakers, especially for Quakers in unprogrammed worship, I think it’s important, because we have so much freedom in who speaks, that the practice—the discipline of interpretation, of discernment for yourself; of what did that mean? what did they mean? what does that mean for me? What does this mean for this community?—is a really important spiritual practice.

Listening in Tongues: Being Bilingual as a Quaker Practice

My name is Robin Mohr. I’m the executive secretary of the Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas. The Friends World Committee is the association of Quaker Yearly Meetings around the world, across all the branches of Friends, and I work with the Section of the Americas, which runs from Alaska to Bolivia. I think that listening in tongues is our spiritual discipline of listening beyond the words for the message of the Holy Spirit in the words that fallible, ordinary human beings have to use to communicate, and it acknowledges that the words that I use to mean this message may be different than the words that you would have used to express the same message, and so our ability to listen for what was really meant is an important practice for people in any spiritual tradition. Listening for what people meant is an important practice.

Learning to Talk to People Who Are Not Like Us

I think that it’s important for people to learn to talk to the people we think are not like us. To be able to talk to people who are insiders and outsiders. To talk to Evangelical Christians, and Buddhists, to military families and pacifists, and to people who are older and younger than we are, to people who are of our same racial background and of different racial backgrounds, people who come from different parts of the country, and from different theological understandings. That all of those can be like speaking a different language.

The Metaphor of Learning Another Language

Learning to talk to people who we think are not like us has a lot in common with learning to speak a second language. It has a lot of the same pitfalls, and it has a lot of the same joys of being understood and understanding. The first time that you actually understand a conversation in your new language is an amazing joy. To be able to be able to speak anti-racist language, to be able to speak Christian language, is a way of saying the same thing in new words. The metaphor of learning another language can be really helpful to us in knowing that we’re going to make mistakes, that we have to practice, that we are beginners. I need to be listening really intently, and it can be exhausting to have to be listening that hard when you realize that you don’t actually understand what’s going on around you. It’s really a skill, but we will feel better, we will be happier in our lives, if we understand what people are trying to tell us and we are understood when we are trying to express ourselves.

Growing Our Meetings

I think that every Quaker meeting would benefit by growing, by being more accessible to the community around it, by welcoming people into our Quaker meetings for that deep experience with the Holy Spirit, that experience of worship with the Divine. And if we are able to speak with people in the language that they can understand, then they will feel more welcome.

Deeper Than Words

I think it’s an important part of being a Friend to be able to communicate, and to be able to communicate with people we think are not like us because the message is deeper and richer and more important than the words we could possibly use.
Seventh Query - Social Responsibility and Witness

For the Meeting:
How does our Meeting work:
• to overcome social, legal, economic, and political injustices, locally and in the wider world?
• for the funding of community services that does not rely on gaming income?
Does our Meeting serve the community through action on concerns for civic improvement? What actions are we taking to assure everyone equal access to education, health care, legal services, housing, and employment as well as equal opportunities in business and in the professions?
When a member has lifted up a concern, how does our Meeting respond?
Does our Meeting encourage those seeking clearness for their convictions of conscience to hold up such convictions with prayerful openness to the Light?

For the Individual:
Am I mindful of how my lifestyle and my investments can contribute to the improvement of the human condition, or to the exploitation of others?
Am I open to seeking clearness on matters of conscience and to assisting others in doing so? How do I respond and support one who acts out of a clear leading when I am under the weight of another?
What am I doing to work for the betterment of my community to assure the maintenance of effective public services which do not rely on funding from gaming?
Do I fulfill my civic responsibilities when they do not conflict with divine leadings?

Upcoming Events ......

October 1  Quaker Community Fall Festival at Hockessin Friends Meeting  8 am-2 pm. Yard Sale (Antiques, Books, Clothes, Collectibles, Toys) Bake Sale, Children’s Activities. Proceeds benefit HFM Education Classroom Renovations.

October 1  Rummage Sale at Kennett Friends Meeting.  8 am-1 pm. Proceeds benefit Social Services & FDS programs. Donations of items accepted, through Sept 30.

October 2  Exhibit: Quakers and the Political Process: Living Our Faith Into Action on display at Hockessin Friends Meeting. Much of the exhibit is also available online: http://www.archstreetfriends.org/exhibit_p0123.html

October 2  Hayride and Campfire Potluck, 5 pm-8 pm. Join Western & Concord Quarter Friends at Stratton’s Wynnorr Farm for a hayride & dinner around the campfire. Let us know you are coming! Register online: http://concordquarter.org/hayride-2016/

October 15  Western Quarterly Meeting at Kendal Friends Meeting, 9 am. See pg. 2 for details. RSVP required for Lunch. Call 610-444-1012 or email coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org

October 22  Dukes of Destiny concert, “Red Hot Blues and Old School Soul”, West Grove Friends Meeting hosted with London Grove Friends. Donations suggested. Doors open 7:00 pm; performance starts at 7:30 pm. More info here.

October 25  Conversations on Race discussion group, 7 pm. Members of Delaware’s Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow will talk about steps we can take to rectify systematic injustices. Location TBA. Meets every 4th Tuesday.

October 29  Performance by singer-songwriter Jen Chapin at the Oxford Friends Meeting House. Doors open 7:00 pm; performance starts at 7:30 pm. Tickets are $15 for adults, Children 12 and under are free. For more information: call (610) 869-8076 or visit http://oxfordfriends.org/events/jen-chapin/

October 30  Aging Resources Consultation discussion at The Hickman, 2:00- 4:00 pm. See details on next page.

November 4-6  PYM Middle School and Young Friends Gatherings. Details: Middle Schoolers  High Schoolers

November 5  PYM Continuing Sessions at Westtown School, all day. Information will posted on PYM.org here.

November 6  Registering for Selective Service, presentation by Margaret Haviland at Westtown School. Details pg. 5.

November 13  Quaker Voluntary Service information session, William Penn Auditorium at Crosslands, 3:30 pm. QVS founder Christina Repoley and three young QVS members will tell us about this thriving national organization and their experiences living and working in the non-profit community in Philadelphia.
**Aging in Our Quaker Communities—A Discussion**

Sunday, October 30, 2016  
2 pm – 4 pm  
Jointly sponsored by The Hickman, Concord and Western Quarters

Many will recognize – in ourselves or others – that there are aging Friends in our Meetings who need assistance as they grow older and/or seek to remain in their own homes. This can be as simple as offering transportation to Meeting for Worship or as complicated as supporting a Friend, with no nearby family, through a health crisis.

The ARCH program of New York Yearly Meeting began in 2008, growing out of this recognition and concern for these elderly and differently-abled f/Friends.

Join us on Sunday, October 30th as we gather to discuss the needs of aging f/Friends and learn from the experiences of Callie Janoff, who with others in NYYM, created the ARCH program in response to this concern.

The ARCH program seeks to strengthen the capacity, as Meetings and as individuals, to care for aging community members by equipping people with information, skills and appropriate boundaries, a network of support and resources, and the spiritual grounding of Quaker values. The ARCH program operates in the knowledge that the inclusion of our oldest Friends in the life of our meetings makes our Meetings stronger.

**Young Friends & Registering for the Draft**

Whether to register with the Selective Service System for the draft is an important issue for 18-year old men and their parents that deserves thoughtful consideration. Recently, the US Senate passed a bill requiring 18-year old women to register for the draft. If that bill becomes law, women will be required to register with the Selective Service System for the draft as well. Westtown School is offering a 1.5 hour workshop for Westtown School students, high school age youth of Concord Quarter and other interested individuals (including parents of high school students) that will help participants become acquainted with the legal issues involved in Selective Service registration, especially regarding Quakers who may wish to claim Conscientious Objector status in the future. The session will be conducted by Margaret Haviland, Assistant Head for Faculty and Program at Westtown School and a member of the Religious Society of Friends at Westtown Friends Meeting. Margaret is a trained workshop leader who has been conducting annual workshops on this issue since 2002. For more info and a map to the Westtown School go to www.concordquarter.org or email concordquarter@pym.org

Selective Service Registration Workshop, a presentation by Margaret Haviland

Sunday, November 6, 2016 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. South Room (Main Building) Westtown School  
975 Westtown Road West Chester, PA 19382
Reflections on PYM Annual Sessions, July 2016
By Mina Johnson (London Grove MM)

For me, the absolute joy of any Yearly Meeting is finding kindred spirits. Gretchen Castle in Friends World New says, "Coming together as a family of Friends is magical... We love each other in that which is eternal. As we find a unity of spirit, we celebrate each other and the privilege of identifying as a Quaker." Yearly Meeting is rich, complex, and challenging. There were four areas which were of special interest to me this year: spiritual growth, money, our new Faith & Practice, and undoing racism.

As a member of London Grove's Worship and Ministry committee, I am always looking for ways to bring the special spirit of Yearly Meeting home with me. I attended a guided meditation using a format developed by Rex Ambler, an English Friend. I hope our W&M committee will want to try it and maybe invite the whole community to participate at some point. The Spiritual Formation workshop was instructive, but it is not likely we will find the required number (12) who want to participate.

To understand what's really happening in any organization: follow the money. The treasurer stacked up gold-covered chocolate coins to help us visualize the way PYM's funds are allocated. Expenses have been well-managed and a surplus is projected. $75,000 was set aside from last year's budget to be spent in a spirit-filled way.

How much money does PYM have? $54.7 million. The largest category (82%) is "restricted" which means it is protected by a will or trust. In informal conversations Susanna Davison and I learned that most of that money was left to take care of elderly Quakers who run out of money before the end of their lives. Many of these wills and trusts were written long before social security and Medicare. There is a view that if the wills were written today, there would be different priorities. One Friend stated that she was willing to bring a law suit to break the trusts. "Gated funds" (12%) are controlled by Friends Fiduciary. An operating reserve represents 5%; which leaves about $700,000 to "live on".

My other interest is the new Faith and Practice, representing 7 years of work on the part of a dedicated committee. Here is what you can expect to see: The first 50 pages include an overview of beliefs; it clarifies the new structures of PYM; there is a new section on procedures and process; it includes a list of Friends' organizations, and will also include 100 new extracts, many by younger women and people of color. It will take awhile to "live into it."

About 30 PYM Friends have been meeting regularly to seek ways to undo racism [including within PYM]. Mostly they have provided training in helping meetings and others understand white privilege and recognize racism. They presented the Yearly Meeting with a proposal which was rejected for many reasons. I can only give you my impressions. Two of the statements in the proposal stood out. First was: "...it will be ESSENTIAL for the body to understand that unless we are actively resisting racism, a majority white body WILL perpetuate... racism and white supremacy." The caps are mine. The tone of the statement is unbending, leaving no room for flexibility or discussion. The second was the real sticking point: "Undoing Racism Group - through an internally appointed nominating committee- will appoint representatives to serve as members of each of PYM's three councils: Quaker Life, Administrative, and Nominating." In other words, they would choose who served, not the gathered body of Friends through its traditional channels. When Friends began to think about the implications of giving so much power to a group outside the approved structure, resistance began to surface. As messages were given, suddenly about 40 people moved to the front of the room in what seemed to be a silent protest. They demanded that the clerk alter the agenda to continue consideration of their proposal. She promised to return to it the next day. At the table where I had lunch, Friends were angry. They felt bullied and I suspect they felt disappointed that there was no recognition of the long way we have come toward dismantling racism in our midst.

The next morning the committee presented a slightly revised proposal, but one Black Friend, Avis, said, "Don't piss on me and call it rain." Our own quarter's tonya thames taylor, an African-American, spoke passionately against the proposal on Sunday morning, crying out, "You want to racialize my God." The clerk begged us to try it as an experiment for two years, but the gathered body literally shouted the proposal down.

For another perspective on the Undoing Racism Group's proposal, read Lucy Duncan's reflections here. Friend tonya thames taylor was the keynote speaker at Annual Sessions. You can watch a recording of her speech here.
The Minutes of Western Quarterly Meeting-17 July 2016 at Newark Monthly Meeting (approved)

The July Meeting of Western Quarterly Meeting (WQM) was held at Newark Monthly Meeting. Friends from Centre, Fallowfield, Hockessin, Kennett, London Grove, Mill Creek, and Newark Monthly Meetings were in attendance.

19.79 Friends approved minutes for the Western Quarterly Support Committee Meeting, Fifth Month 22, 2016.

19.80— Treasurer’s Report
Treasurer, Stan Glowiak, presented the Profit and Loss statement for the period July 2015 through June 2016. He also provided the year-end report for FY 2015-16. We ended the fiscal year with a net income of $8,257.53, finishing the year with operating expenses totaling $32,467.47 instead of the $40,0725 that was budgeted for Payroll, Office and Program expenses. Anyone who has not received a copy of the full report and would like one can contact the Treasurer for a copy. This favorable report was received with thanks.

19.81— Annual Reports
   a. Fallowfield- Anthony Taylor shared a brief verbal report about the conditions of the orthodox burial ground, under Fallowfield’s care, reporting that all is well;
   b. Youth Activities- Sarah Kastriner submitted an annual report (attached).

19.82— WQM Budget for FY2016-17 proposed for approval
Financial year 2016-17 budget, presented by Dick Logan. Budget was approved as proposed.

19.83— WQM By-Law Review Proposal
Most recent version of by-laws is dated 1982. A review committee is being formed. Shelley Hastings, Ariana Langford, and Dick Logan volunteered.

19.84— WQM Committee Restructuring Decisions
   a. Friend’s Support Committee for grants has not been very active in recent years, and this year did not process applications efficiently. It was recommended that we contact the three committee members, explain the problem and let them know how we would like to proceed. Shelley will talk to the committee members about laying it down, and doing the work via Western Quarter’s Support Committee.
   b. London Britain Property Committee needs rejuvenation. Clerks are working to repopulate the committee, particularly from Newark MM members, who use the building the most.

19.85— Quarterly Meeting 2017 Schedule & Hosts
We would like to keep Quarterly Meeting rotating through all Meeting Houses, with support. We also need to reach out to New Garden to find out what help they need.
   •Kendal, Saturday, 15 October, 2016;    * London Grove, 15 January, 2017;
   •New Garden, April, 2017—Third First Day is Easter. Friends approved moving Quarterly Meeting to fourth First Day in April (4/23/17);    * Fallowfield, 16 July, 2017;    * Kennett, 15 October, 2017.

19.86— Consideration of Minutes of Appreciation
With the addition of “thank you for the food & fellowship,” Friends approved minutes of appreciation for Hockessin and Centre Monthly Meetings, for hosting quarterly meetings in the First and Fourth months, respectively.

19.87— Undoing Racism Work
Friends agreed to form a sprint committee for continuing WQM’s undoing racism efforts.

19.88— Coordinator Report & Updates on Recent and Future Gatherings
1.WQM Support Committee Coordinator, Sarah Kastriner, reported on the Coordinator’s activities and provided updates regarding the Quarter.
2.Fall/October 2016 Quarterly: Kendal, Saturday, October 15th, program led by Robin Mohr of Friends World Committee on Consultation. A future quarterly event may include Playback Theatre.
3.Exploratory Meeting on Caring for our Aging Community with NYYM ARCH director, Callie Janoff. Sunday afternoon, October 30th, at The Hickman.

19.89— Next WQM Support Committee Meeting: Sunday, September 18th: Kennett Monthly Meeting at 3:00 PM.
Meeting closed with silence.
Respectfully Submitted,
Anthony Taylor
Western Quarter, Alternate Recording Clerk

To read the complete Minutes, and the Minutes from the WQM Support Committee Meetings, please visit our Business Resources page online: http://westernquarterquakers.org/business-meeting-info/
Meeting ended with silence at 4:59 pm. Respectfully submitted, Sarah Kastriner, WQM Coordinator

underwent surgery; Friends are asked to hold her and Anthony in the Light, and lend support to the family if needed.

bring a report to QM in October. The new bookkeeper began on Friday, and made a good start. Friend Tonya Taylor recently

19.96 New Business & Announcements

Monthly Meetings are encouraged to send at least one representative.

Sponsored by The Hickman, Western and Concord Quarters. It will be held on October 30.

Garden MM wishes to be taken out of the hosting rotation. Friends were asked to consider having a joint QM program with Concord Quarter, possibly at Westtown, where a joint children’s meeting is expected.

edged that our two most recent QM programs (July & Oct), while related to our social justice work, were not directly about racism, which is another possibility. April QM was discussed again, as Friend Pownall Jones (NGMM) confirmed that New Garden MM wishes to be taken out of the hosting rotation. Friends were asked to consider having a joint QM program with Concord Quarter, possibly at Westtown, where a joint children’s program is already being planned for that day (April 23).

19.95 Aging Resources Consultation and Help — area Friends’ discussion on aging & Quaker communities is being jointly sponsored by The Hickman, Western and Concord Quarters. It will be held on October 30th from 2-4 pm at The Hickman. Monthly Meetings are encouraged to send at least one representative.

19.96 New Business & Announcements — The By-Laws sprint group will begin preliminary review of the WQM By-Laws and bring a report to QM in October. The new bookkeeper began on Friday, and made a good start. Friend Tonya Taylor recently underwent surgery; Friends are asked to hold her and Anthony in the Light, and lend support to the family if needed.

Meeting ended with silence at 4:59 pm. Respectfully submitted, Sarah Kastriner, WQM Coordinator