



# Western Quarterly News

*of the Religious Society Of Friends*

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**Western Quarterly Meeting Newsletter**

**Spring 2017**

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Greetings Friends!

In the weeks prior to our most recent snowstorm, my Amish neighbor was having dump truck loads of dark, rich soil delivered and spread in the fields between our homes. In the coming weeks I expect to see him out there with his team of horses, continuing to turn the new into the old, preparing for the spring planting.

I am no farmer, but I know enough to follow his example. By feeding my soul with fresh perspectives and new insights, and turning them over with contemplation, I can, with proper attention grow in the Spirit. As I nourish my spiritual roots, they become deeper and more connected with other seekers. **As we all grow, we become more connected, more 'in community.'** That energy of spring growth is upon me, upon my Meeting, and upon the Quarter! I hope it is upon you as well.

The WQM Support Committee met recently and amid a sharing of concerns there was a clear sense of fellowship and joy. **Some of you reading this will think, "That is what I get from my own meeting."** Well, I would hope so! But the Quarter allows this sharing among Friend and between the meetings, giving us a chance to support each other. A combining of the new into the old, as it were.

**Speaking of supporting each other... For the last several years, Western Quarter has been growing in** relationship with Concord Quarterly Meeting. This partnership has strengthened youth programs in both Quarters. In April our respective communities will join for Quarterly Meeting, hosted by Concord Quarter and Westtown Friends. This will be an event not to be missed. The schedule is a bit different for the day, as we will start with separate Meetings for Business before a joint Meeting for Worship and lunch. Then after lunch the program portion of the day will be Playback Theatre.

For those of you who have not experienced Playback Theatre, please put this date on your calendars and make sure you join us — as it is an experience like no other! This talented group of actors will give us the opportunity to look at our differences and our shared experiences. But not just look at these, but witness them and grow closer together as a community of Friends and seekers.

## In this Issue:

From the Co-Clerks

April Quarterly Meeting  
(details)

NEW Faith & Practice

Query & Events

Proposed WQM By-  
law Updates

January QM Minutes

March SC Minutes  
(draft)

## Keep reading this newsletter for all the details. But don't stop there!

There is a lot going on. We received an exciting report about the new Faith & Practice, which motivated me to dig into the online version. Perhaps not quite as exciting, we are updating the WQM bylaws for the first time since 1982! Your comments and suggestions are welcome as we try to bring this document into the present day. And as always there are interesting articles and events you will not want to miss.

Spring. I can smell it in the air, and I can feel it in the gentle movement of Spirit.

I look forward to seeing you at April Quarterly Meeting.

Yours in the Light,

Ariana Langford, WQM Co-Clerk

## Western & Concord Joint Quarterly Meeting April 23, 2017 at Westtown Monthly Meeting

8:30 am **Sign-in:** *Western Quarter* will meet in the Lower School Gathering Room, in the Lower School off of Shady Grove Road ([Link to Campus Map](#))

9:00-10:15 **Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business** (Separate)

10:30-11:30 **Meeting for Worship** in Westtown Meetinghouse (Combined for the rest...)

Covered  
Dish  
Supper



12:00-1:00 **Lunch** in the Boys Collection Room, Main Building across from the Westtown Meeting House. Main Dish provided by Westtown Meeting. Potluck sides & desserts — please bring something to share!



1:00-2:30 **Program** led by

*Yes...AND Playback Theatre Group:*

**Learning to Understand and Celebrate Our Differences Through Shared Experiences**

### Children's Program (1st - 12th Grades)

#### Outdoor Youth Event - Ropes Course & Canoeing

8:15 AM to 3:00 PM (rain or shine!) at Westtown School. Open to any child whose parent or parents attend or are members of any monthly meeting in Western Quarterly Meeting or Concord Quarterly Meeting or is actively involved in Westtown School's Quaker Leadership Program (Note: To canoe, a child must be able to swim.) **Registration must be completed by April 7.** Cost is \$10 for first child and \$5 for each child thereafter. [Click here](#) for more info.



Childcare will be provided during Meeting for Business, Worship and Program. For more info and a map to the meeting go to [www.concordquarter.org](http://www.concordquarter.org) or email [coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org](mailto:coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org)

# April QM Program: Playback Theater

April 23, 1:00-2:30 pm



**Improv based on Audience Stories. Locally based troupe brings issues of personal and social change to life in a non-threatening, enlightening and entertaining format.**

Western and Concord Quarters have been planning joint youth programs together for several years now, though there hasn't been an intentional opportunity for our quarters to join in broader community and worship. When Easter pushed WQM's Quar-

terly Meeting date to the same Sunday as Concord Quarterly Meeting this year, we knew this was an opportunity to come together for something special. With much planning, and extra generosity on the part of Westtown MM (our hosts), we are excited to put our community testimony into action with our first joint Concord-Western Quarterly Meeting. We will conduct our Quarterly business separately in the morning, then join together for Worship, lunch, and an amazing program/performance.

The program will revolve around certain queries which were introduced to Concord Quarter at their January Quarterly Meeting, centered around difference, perceptions of difference, and our experiences of those differences. The goal of the program is to help us face truths about our respective implicit biases that are not necessarily apparent to us. The hope is that such experience will help us lovingly embrace - rather than just tolerate - differences among us - both Friends and non-Friends.

**In Playback Theatre "performances are carried out by a team of actors, a 'master of ceremonies' called the conductor, and a musician. As the show begins, audience members respond to questions from the conductor, then [they] watch as actors and musician create brief theatre pieces on the spot. Later, volunteers from the audience come to the stage to tell longer stories, choosing actors to play the main roles. Although performances often focus on a theme or interest of concern, the performers follow no narrative agenda, but bring their dramatic skills and their humanity to embodying on the stage the concerns and experiences of audience members."**

The troupe will be led by Andrea Jacobs and Davis Rodriguez-Melendez. **"Andrea is a freelance facilitator, researcher and social justice educator...."** She **"is trained as a social linguist and knows that language creates our reality; the words we use can limit or liberate what is possible. She knows that improv and the arts unleash the transformative power of creativity that's essential to creating change and building community."** Davis, a son of Puerto Rico, **"has been involved in Playback Theatre for over a decade"** including being a co-founder of Yes ... AND Playback Theatre."

The idea to use Playback Theatre as a forum for exploring the issues of difference and bias grew out of conversations between WQM's coordinator and Jessie Cocks. Jessie Cox is one of Yes --- Playback Theatre's co-founders, and is also a long-time member of Kennett Meeting. Jessie introduced Yes ... AND Playback Theatre to Western Quarter members when the troupe was giving a public performance at the Kennett Meetinghouse. Western's Quarter's Support Committee was, serendipitously, meeting across the hall at the same time. The troupe invited the Western Quarter Friends to share in the performance, and they did so willingly. It turned out to be a wonderful experience that many thought would be meaningful to Friends throughout the Quarters, as well as a potentially joyful way to examine difficult issues.



## Second Query - Meeting for Business

For the Meeting:

Is our meeting for business held in the spirit of a meeting for worship in which we seek divine guidance?

- Are we careful to keep in the spirit of worship each of the concerns that emerge, whether of nurture, of Spirit, of social concerns, of property, or of finance?
- Are Meeting decisions directed by prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and are difficult problems considered carefully with patient search for truth, unhurried by the pressures of time?
- How do we respond if we notice the meeting has lost an understanding of the presence of God?
- Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?

For the Individual:

- *Do I regularly attend meeting for business and in a spirit of love and unity? If unable to attend, how do I attend to my responsibility?*
- *Do I consider prayerfully the many concerns that are lifted up on any issue, acknowledging that the search for truth in unity involves what God requires, being open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?*

## Upcoming Events .....

**April 23 at 9 AM—Quarterly Meeting** hosted by Westtown MM.  
See pgs 2 & 3 for details.

**April 25 at 7 PM Conversations on Race** at Kennett MM

**May 5 11 AM –3 PM** Fairville Friends School FUN FAIR

**May 5-7 Resources & Renewal Retreat** for FDS teachers, hosted at West Chester MM. [www.pym.org/calendar](http://www.pym.org/calendar)

**May 5-7** PYM Middle School and Young Friends programs at Camp Swatara [www.pym.org/calendar](http://www.pym.org/calendar)

**May 13 7 AM-2 PM** London Grove MM Plant Sale—don't miss it!

**May 13** (times TBA) Hockessin MM—Family Movie Night Double Feature: *Moana* and *Loving*

**May 20 8 AM-1 PM** Kennett MM HUGE YARD SALE

**May 20** (times TBA) Hockessin MM — Friends Night potluck supper & program

**May 20-21** PYM Spring Family Overnight at Camp Dark Waters [www.pym.org/calendar](http://www.pym.org/calendar)

**May 23 at 7 PM Conversations on Race** at Kennett MM

### Dining for Women

Noon on third Sundays at  
West Grove Friends Meeting

April 23: Chicuchas Wasi

May 21: Mali Health

June 18: Limitless Horizons Ixil

To read about each program, visit this link:

<https://diningforwomen.org/learn/featured-programs/>



West Grove Friends Meeting presents:  
Constitutional Conversations,  
with Andrew Atkinson,

Thursdays in May, 7:00. The series is free and open to the public.

Thursday, May 4 The Constitution: Fun Facts and Preconditions of Democracy

Thursday, May 11 The Constitution: Separation of Powers

Thursday, May 18 The Constitution: Civil Liberties

Thursday, May 25 The Constitution: Citizenship

### Historic Meetings Summer Worship Schedule 2017

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

**Old Kennett Meeting** 9 am 6/25, 7/30 & 8/27

**Pennsgrove Meeting** 10 am 6/25, 7/23 & 8/27

**Homeville Meeting** 2 pm 5/28 & 8/27

**Parkersville Meeting** 2 pm 9/10

**Colora Meeting** \*tentative\* 2pm 9/17

Locations and directions available on the WQM website.



# One Book One Yearly Meeting

**The 2017 Book has been selected! It is our [Faith & Practice Revision](#).** This is a special year for us, because the revision of our Faith and Practice is being considered for approval and adoption. Our Faith and Practice book is an expression of some of the foundational elements of the Quaker Way for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. We hope that this year everyone takes a moment to read the proposed Faith and Practice Revision in full. We have included a few basic queries for communities to follow, if they'd like.

After PYM annual sessions last summer, the clerk and General Secretary of our yearly meeting invited Friends to take time during the coming year to familiarize themselves with the proposed revision of Faith and Practice. The Faith and Practice Sprint\* wants to help Friends dig into the new book with this information page. Whether taking a look individually or as a group in your meeting, Friends will find helpful, engaging and inspiring material and, in the process of getting acquainted with the revision, will be preparing for 2017 annual sessions when the revision will come before the body for consideration for adoption. Where to look: [www.pym.org/one-book-one-yearly-meeting](http://www.pym.org/one-book-one-yearly-meeting) Why a revision? The Faith and Practice Revision Group, serving from 2009-2016, worked to make Faith and Practice more useful and more accessible and to bring it up to date. This has been done periodically throughout our history. (The previous revision was published in 1997 and then slightly updated in 2002.)

What has changed in the 2016 revision?

- **The organization of the contents has been rearranged to better serve individuals and meetings.**
  - The revision begins with "Experience and Faith" with material about the important elements of our faith and how our faith is reflected in practice.
  - The guidelines and procedures that individuals and meetings often use are easier to locate, gathered into a new section by that name.
- **The organization of the General Queries has changed. There are still 12 sets of general queries so that meetings can consider one set each month if they wish to do so.**
  - Some of the queries have remained the same, and some have been updated, combined with others, or replaced.
  - The 12 general queries have been arranged into four groups by topic: Deepening Our Faith, Nurturing Our Community, Grounding for Transformed Lives, and Witnessing in the World.

What is new in the 2016 revision?

- **Friends and Some of Their Organizations** -- ways Friends carry their work and witness into the world -- listings and websites
- **Extracts from the Writings of Friends** -- more from women, young people and people of color
- **Guidelines and Procedures** -- previously scattered throughout the book, are now collected in one section. They have been reviewed and updated, and some new guidelines have been added. All are meant to be helpful for supporting members and attenders, deepening spiritual life, and attending to business. New and updated items include:
  - Guidelines for a Spiritual Self-assessment of the Meeting
  - Queries and Checklist on End-of-Life Matters
  - Guidelines for Care Committees -- for clearness committees, for pastoral care assistance committees, and for spiritual care committees
- **Resources section provides a selection of references to books, pamphlets and on-line documents, which supplement the material in the revision.**

\*Please contact us at the email below if you have questions, want more information, or to share your meeting's experience with the revision.

Suzanne Day, clerk: [suzanne@riverfarm.org](mailto:suzanne@riverfarm.org)

Faith and Practice Sprint, March 2017

## Western Quarterly Meeting Bylaws — Proposed Updates

As part of our “good governance” practices, members of the Support Committee reviewed our Quarterly Meeting bylaws (last updated in 1982). It is being proposed that we amend our bylaws to reflect our current practices. The proposed revisions were reviewed by the WQM Support Committee in March, and will be presented at April Quarterly Meeting. The most substantive changes are reprinted below, with new text in red. The complete bylaws and revisions are available on our website ([here](#)), or by requesting a copy from the office (610-444-1012). Printed copies will be distributed at April Quarterly Meeting.

### Article X – Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Western Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends the corporation shall be the same as the Support Committee of Western Quarterly Meeting. The Board of Directors shall consist of two (2) representative members (including the officers of the Corporation) from each Monthly Meeting in the Quarter. An executive committee, consisting of officers, shall be created by the Board of Directors. The officers include: the Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting who shall serve as Clerk of the Board of Directors; the Assistant Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting who shall serve as Assistant Clerk of the Board of Directors; the Recording Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting who shall serve as Recording Clerk of the Board of Directors; the Assistant Recording Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting who shall serve as Recording Clerk of the Board of Directors; the Treasurer of the Quarterly Meeting who shall serve as Treasurer of the Board of Directors; and the Assistant Treasurer of the Quarterly Meeting who shall serve as Assistant Treasurer of the Board of Directors. Each non-officer member shall serve for a term of ~~three (3)~~ two (2) years, with additional terms at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The ~~Directors officers~~ of the corporation shall serve until their successors shall have been chosen.

### Article XII – Conditions and Terms of Office

Whenever the terms of representative members on the Board of Directors comes to an end, their reappointment or the appointment of successors shall be decided by the Monthly Meeting represented.

The term of office for all the officers and members of the Board of Directors shall begin on January 1 ~~nearest to the annual membership meeting~~ or the first day of the next fiscal year.

It is the intention of the present Corporation that decisions made and formal actions taken shall be on the basis of ~~consensus~~ the sense of the Meeting, as explained in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting’s Faith and Practice, including the selection of a member of the Board of Directors.

### Article XV – Amendments

The members of this Corporations may, by a sense of the meeting of the members present, alter, amend, suspend or annul these by-laws at any regular meeting or at a special meeting called for this purpose, provided that prior to consideration, the proposed changes are distributed to the Membership along with notification of the time and place of the meeting at which the amendments will be considered and adopted.

**\*\*\* Abbreviated Minutes \*\*\*****Complete version available online.**

Minutes of the Business Meeting Session of Western Quarterly Meeting held on  
15 January 2017 at London Grove Meeting, 1-3:07 PM (Approved)

London Grove Monthly Meeting hosted the January Business Meeting of Western Quarterly Meeting (WQM), in attendance were 24 Friends from Centre, Hockessin, London Grove, Fallowfield, Kennett, Mill Creek, Newark, and New Garden Monthly Meetings.

After 10 minutes of silent worship, Friends from Newark, Mill Creek, and West Grove MMs shared their reflections of the January Meeting for Worship Query.

**20.07—Friends approved the minutes of the WQM's Meeting for Business held on 15 October 2016****20.08—Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Stan Glowiak provided a detailed account of the Income and Expenses, Budget v. Actual Report. After a slow First Quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17, covenant payments picked up in the Second Quarter and WQM is closer to where it ought to be with regard to both income and expenditures at the half way point of the fiscal year. Total payroll, office, and program expenses are at 48.1% of budget.

**Accepted Suggestions:**

Moving forward, WQM will provide a standard tax deductible "Thank You" acknowledgement for donations made directly to WQM that lists donation, person/organization, and language compliant with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), for example: *"Thank you for your cash/check contribution of [amount] that [person's/organization's name] received on [date]. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution."*

Friends will have access to the Friends Fiduciary Corp. Report at WQM Business Meetings or upon request made to the WQM Coordinator. However, the Friends Fiduciary Corp. Report will not accompany the formal, distributed Treasurer's Report.

**20.09—Minute of Appreciation for the Life Among Us of Jane P. Rushmore**

Susanna Davison, a Friend at London Grove Monthly Meeting (LGMM), provided a biographical sketch of Jane P. Rushmore. Next, LGMM Clerk Robert "Bob" Frye read the formal minute.

**ACTION:** WQM endorsed the Minute. The LGMM Clerk will forward the Minute to the Clerks of PYM and Quaker Life Council for consideration noting that WQM endorsed London Grove MM's Minute of Appreciation for the Life Among Us of Jane P. Rushmore.

**20.10- Proposal for Recognizing needs for our Aging Quaker Communities, and Participation a Model of Support (like NYYM ARCH program).**

WQM Coordinator Sarah Kastriner sought approval to pilot a local Working Group to assist elderly members find resources that might arise as they age. **Approved**

**20.11— Letter for Concern- For Consideration authored by Friend Thomas Swain**

**ACTION:** WQM will distribute Friend Thomas Swain's Letter to PYM regarding Annual Sessions and Quaker process to Monthly Meetings (MM). WQM will ask MMs to do as each MM sees fit in regards to the content of the letter. **OF NOTE:** One Friend, who opposed the measure, stepped aside and the sense of WQM was to distribute the letter.

**20.12—PYM Request of WQM to Co-Sponsor a Retreat**

**ACTION:** WQM approved WQM staff to proceed with actions associated with the planning and implementing of this Religious ED/FDS Resources and Renew Retreat, May 5-7th.

**20.13—Coordinating's Report**

**(a) April Quarterly Meeting: APRIL 23<sup>rd</sup> and at Westtown, 8:30 AM- 3 PM.** For WQM's April Meeting, Westtown MM is the host. WQM will follow the schedule of Concord QM.

**(b) Social Justice/Racism Workshop, possible Fall 2017 event.** Linda Lucero & Apryl Walker of The Delaware Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow are willing to facilitate a full or half-day workshop: *United to End Racism*.

**ACTION:** WQM approved for WQM Coordinator Sarah Kastriner to discuss the project with its coordinators in the upcoming weeks. She will have a report and recommendation(s) at the April Quarterly Meeting.

**(c) Save the Dates****Adjourned Business Meeting Session of WQM at 2:55 PM. Opened Annual Corporation Meeting**

**(A) Bylaws Review Committee Report—**Bylaws should be put into a WORD document. Any suggestions for changes in the bylaws should be submitted before the next business meeting.

**(B) Property Survey-** A reminder to return property surveys will be sent to those MMs not in compliance.

**(C) Property Committee Annual Reports**

London Britain- Clerk Shelley Hastings read the attached report from Friend Mike McDowell, London Britain Property Committee.

Colora Property Update- WQM Coordinator Sarah Kastriner reported that West Grove Friend Mary Sproat shared that the residential building located on Colora Meeting's property had been demolished and no funds were needed from WQM.

**Adjourned Meeting at 3:01. Reopened Business Meeting Session of Western Quarterly Meeting**

Meeting reconvened at 3:02.

**20.14 Reminder:** Next WQM Support Committee Meeting: Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM at Kennett MM.

Meeting ended at 3:07 PM, after silent worship.

Peace and Progress and Faithfully submitted on January 16, 2017,

tonya thames taylor, WQM Recording Clerk

**\*\*\*Abbreviated Minutes\*\*****Complete text available online and provided at April QM**

The Minutes of the Support Committee of Western Quarterly Meeting held  
19 March 2017 at Kennett Monthly Meeting, 3-5:10 PM

The Support Committee met at Kennett Monthly Meeting. Attending were Friends from Centre, Fallowfield, Kendal, Kennett, Newark, New Garden, and West Grove Monthly Meetings.

**20.15:** Friends affirmed a WQM's funding request of a WQM Friend to attend Annual Sessions in July 2017.

**20.17:** Friends affirmed the January Minutes, correcting two minor revisions regarding the initials of WQM (located at 20.09 and 20.10).

**20.18: Reporting of the Life in Monthly Meetings (MMs): Friends from Centre, Fallowfield, Kendal, Kennett, Newark, New Garden and West Grove shared their news. General WQM News:** WQM affirmed PhYM's request to participate in a new initiative: Resource Friends. Resource Friends is a repository of names of Friends with certain expertise who can provide support and insight on issues and projects for MMs and Quarters.

**20.19: WQM Revision of Bylaws, First Draft:** Friends read, discussed, and amended the revisions to the current WQM bylaws. Friends agreed that the revised bylaws will be sent to all MMs, posted online, and included in the next WQM newsletter. The bylaws will be reviewed for adoption at the April Quarterly Meeting.

**20.20: Events Updates**

**Religious Education Retreat Update:** WQM is co-sponsoring this retreat, which will be hosted by West Chester MM. Registration is encouraged: [www.pym.org/event/resources-renewal-2017](http://www.pym.org/event/resources-renewal-2017)

**April QM:** This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our community. Please attend.

**20.21: Faith and Practice Update.**

Friend tonya thames taylor shared a summary of major revisions of *Faith and Practice*. Ideally, the adoption of the revised *Faith and Practice* will occur at Annual Sessions this year.

**20.22: PhYM Staffing Changes**

WQM is concerned with the staffing changes at PhYM. After a 25-minute melancholy discussion, Friends agreed to hold the current staff and PhYM in The Light. A much-needed, five-minute silent worship followed the discussion.

**20.23: New Business**

A Friend suggested the Support Committee develop a Western Quarter Meeting 101 course. Friends will resume discussion at the next Support Committee Meeting.

Meeting concluded at 5:10 PM after silent worship.

Peace and Progress and Faithfully submitted  
on Monday, March 20, 2017,  
tonya thames taylor, WQM Recording Clerk  
Fallowfield MM

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/>