



# Western Quarterly News

*of the Religious Society Of Friends*

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Western Quarterly Meeting Newsletter      Spring 2018

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Dear Friends,

*"How is Spirit stirring within you today?"*

I hope that Friends might excuse a bit of irreverence, but this query reminds me of my days learning to tend bar in a Chinese restaurant at the age of nineteen. (How I came to be tending bar at the age of 19 is an ironic plot twist to a story I won't relate here, but feel free to ask me sometime!) An image of making a top shelf martini, extra dry, straight up with a twist, to be stirred, not shaken comes to mind along with my patient Chinese boss explaining it to me. You stir the martini to blend in the vermouth and minimize the dilution of the alcohol by ice that melts more quickly upon shaking. In my imagination, some Quakers are like a perfect martini. They are made of nothing but top shelf ingredients that grow finer with age, gently blended with control for just the right balance. The result is smooth and refined.

I have a slightly different image of myself. I'm thinking of another popular drink at that long-ago restaurant - the zombie. This concoction consisted of about six ingredients thrown into the blender with some ice and turned up high for a few seconds. The resulting beverage came out frothy and fruity in appearance and taste, but it would lay you out if you weren't careful. That's how Spirit moves in me. At least lately. There are no gentle whispers, or faint leadings. Spirit is violently shaking me by the shoulders while life is bouncing me around like a pinball! Maybe I wasn't listening when Spirit was only stirring, swirling peacefully through my essence. Now I can't hear because Spirit is yelling too loudly for me to discern the meaning.

I suspect we've all gone through times when our lives have felt like that pinball machine, or even the random mix of ingredients thrown into the blender on high. Most of the time most of us fall somewhere between the perfect martini and the wild zombie.

We know that wherever we are on the spectrum, one way to calm our lives down, to better hear Spirit, is through improving our connections to our bodies. Mindfulness has become mainstream. At our April Quarterly Meeting we will be exploring an ancient Chinese practice to improve that mind-body connection: Tai Chi Chuan.

Whether you have studied Tai Chi for decades, or you have never heard of it, please join us for Quarterly Meeting at Mill Creek Meeting. We will pay attention to the movement of our bodies, regardless of our individual limitations, and improve our energy levels. We will have time for worship, then will enjoy community over lunch.

Sorry, no martinis on the menu.

Peace and blessings,

Ariana Langford, Co-Clerk

## **In this Issue:**

**From the Co-Clerks**

**April Quarterly  
Meeting details**

**Third Query**

**Updates & Articles**

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Announcements**

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## Western Quarterly Meeting – April

### Mill Creek Friends Meeting, hosts

## Tai Chi Chuan - Mindfulness & Movement

**Sunday, April 15, 2018**

9 am– 9:30 am      Coffee half-hour  
 9:30 am              Program  
 10:30 am            Worship  
 Lunch\* at rise of Meeting for Worship  
 Meeting for Business following Lunch



Children of all ages invited to enjoy an outdoor Children's Program.

\*Potluck lunch will be supported by the hosts - please bring a dish to share as you are able. Mill Creek Meeting is located at 1140 Doe Run Road, Newark, DE 19711 .

Details and directions available at WQM's [online events calendar](#)

### Third Query - [Deepening Our Faith: Spiritual Nurture](#)\*

For the Meeting:

- How does the meeting encourage the use of spiritual practices that deepen our faith, enhance the excitement of shared religious discovery and increase the possibility of spiritual transformation?
- What is the nature of our shared experience of the Divine and how do we nurture our collective spiritual growth and transformation?
- In what ways do we support each other in our spiritual journeys, in our search for God's will and in our efforts to increase understanding of humanity's relationship to life on earth?
- How do we recognize, develop and nurture the spiritual gifts of all in our meeting?

For the Individual:

- *How do I incorporate into my personal and family life those daily practices that focus on continued spiritual growth, including worship, reflection and engagement with writings that nurture the soul?*
- *How does my spiritual life integrate an understanding of a well-ordered relationship with the earth and deepen my reverence for the interconnectedness of all life?*

\* [General Queries](#) are taken from the newest version of PYM's [Faith and Practice](#), available online, and soon to be published.

## Western Quarterly Meeting Considers Financial Reserves

Treasurers from Monthly Meetings throughout the Quarter met in January to address the question of what to do with reserve funds the Quarter has saved up as a result of careful stewardship over the years. Each of the Quarter's ten Monthly Meetings were represented in the conversation, led by WQM Finance Committee Clerk, Dick Logan (Hockessin MM). Among the ideas for using the funds were 1) establishing an operating reserve that would set aside funds to cover 50% of the Quarter's operating expenses; 2) allocating a portion of funds that could be available for special programs or projects that would benefit the entire Quarter; and 3) establishing a capital reserve to ensure the continued care of properties under the Quarter. Notes from the meeting were circulated among the treasurers, and Monthly Meetings were invited to give feedback to the Quarter. As of the March meeting of the WQM Support Committee, a few had responded in general support of the ideas proposed. One Monthly Meeting brought forth a Minute as a result of their discussion (next column). Discussion will continue during Quarterly Meeting in April.

Here is the minute approved by London Grove Friends Monthly Meeting with respect to Quarterly Meeting reserves:

The London Grove Friends Meeting makes the following recommendations with respect to maintaining the appropriate level of reserves by the Western Quarterly Meeting. At the present time the Quarter holds approximately \$130,000 as reserves.

First, the Quarter should hold an operating reserve of 50% of the current operating budget. For instance, if the operating budget for staff and facilities is \$40,000 an additional \$20,000 should be held to cover unexpected expenses. We understand that there is agreement on this direction.

Second, the Quarter should establish a capital reserve to cover expenses that may arise with respect to the repair and maintenance of the historical meetinghouses that have been given over to its care. In order to define the appropriate level for this fund the Quarter should appoint a committee to evaluate the needs and risks for each of the buildings for which it has responsibility. An estimate of appropriate level of funds would become the planned capital reserve for the Quarter. This reserve would include the designated funds that are held for a given meeting's care as part of the transfer of responsibility for the building. Dedicated funds would be restricted to the associated meetinghouse.

## Property Survey Results & Next Steps

The Property Sprint Group is happy to announce that they have received completed surveys from all of the Monthly Meetings in the Quarter which own property. Two Monthly Meetings in our Quarter — Newark Friends and Kendal Friends — own no property nor are responsible for buildings or burial grounds. The other eight active Monthly Meetings in our Quarter provided information about their Meeting Houses, burial grounds, and additional structures under their care, for a total of 26 properties. The details given in the survey have been collected in a spreadsheet. An additional four inactive Meeting Houses and their burial grounds lie within Western Quarter: London Britain, Penns Grove, Parkersville and Colora. We will attempt to gather the same information about these properties to be included in the spreadsheet. The initial goal of the survey was to create a repository of information about each property (such as the location of the deed, insurance policies, etc.) that might be helpful to Monthly Meetings in future years. A secondary goal is to find out if Monthly Meetings have common challenges in maintaining their properties, and consider if there are ways the Quarter could support them. This work is ongoing.

## Local Friends Organize to End Gun Violence

One of our Young Friends, Natalie Kelly (pictured below with mom Karen), was instrumental in organizing the West Chester, PA, **March for Our Lives** rally which coincided with rallies all over the world on March 24, 2018. Natalie has been outspoken in her desire to reduce gun violence. As her home Meeting deliberated their commitment around the issues of gun violence back in February, Natalie wrote a letter to Kennett Friends—speaking her truth about the issue (below). See the next page to read more about the installation and anti-gun-violence initiative in Kennett Square.



Hi, Friends. My name is Natalie Kelly. As a member of Kennett Friends Meeting, I want to speak on the issue of gun violence. As a student, I am increasingly becoming aware of how quickly schools become targets and classmates become memorials. Teachers teach us to never run if we hear the fire alarm, especially if we're in a lockdown. This is confusing, because as a kindergartner, I was told that the blaring noise means "get out, as fast as you can." Now, it means "stay right where you are, stay silent, text your parents that you love them." After the incident in Florida, we were told to review social media accounts of our peers. The administration welcomed comments, which they promised were anonymous. They even offered to connect us to police, if necessary. But I still get that sinking feeling; that feeling that I should not have to report which of my classmates own and love guns. Most are under eighteen and it is not my job to regulate their online activity--that's up to their parents, not me. First period after each shooting, I am told yet again the details and reassured that it would never happen here, then told what to do if it does. That contradiction doesn't sit right in my heart, either.



As Quakers, it is our job to practice nonviolence. We cannot just practice it in our own Meeting, with the ten or so people that will show up to a Meeting for Business. We cannot just practice it even on Family Sunday, surrounded by others who agree. We have to practice nonviolence in our communities. Offering the Meeting House as a place to spread nonviolence and awareness is a simple way to spread our message. For a little more than a month, we can lose some space on the lawn to support our county.

The idea of recognizing those lost is honorable, yet terrifying. Do we want to see the names of children in our community who have been killed? It scares me, too. Still, I want to help. If creating a memorial will create change, let's do it. If it makes one person question their support of guns, let's do it. If it forces another student or adult to be more vigilant, let's do it. If our efforts, in any way, shape, or form, can remedy the disease that our country is facing, let's do it.





## Heading God's Call to End Gun Violence

Kennett Friends have joined with several other churches in the Kennett area to sponsor the Heeding God's Call installation, as well as organizing programs throughout the event, in an effort to bring attention and discussion to ending gun violence in our community. Students from Lincoln University

came to help erect the 73 t-shirts currently on the Meeting lawn - 56 for victims of intentional gun violence in Southern Chester County in the past year, and 17 in remembrance of those killed on February 14th in Parkland, Florida. See below for related events - including one at Kennett Friends on 4/11.

## Community Conversations on Violence, Guns, and Intersections

These events are sponsored by the coalition of: Kennett Friends Meeting, Church of the Open Door Justice Seeking Team, MLK Community Board and MLK Advocates, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, and Chester County Faith Community Ministry Network, in collaboration with Heeding God's Call-Gun Violence Prevention ([www.heedinggodscall.org](http://www.heedinggodscall.org).)

### **Wednesday, April 11:** *Changing the Story Around Violence*

Kennett Meeting, 7:00 p.m. with Sarah Kastriner and Jessie Cocks

What is violence and why do humans engage in these destructive practices? Join us to learn about the role of violence in our lives, explore strategies for nurturing your inner peace-maker, and sample some nonviolent conflict resolution skills that can help defuse or reduce the potential for violence in various situations.

### **Tuesday, April 17:** *Intersections: Domestic Abuse and Gun Violence* St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 7:00 p.m.

What is the intersection of domestic abuse and violence and guns? Statistics show that women in the U.S. are 16 times more likely to be shot and killed than are women in other developed nations.

### **Sunday, April 22:** *Gun Violence Awareness Day* Kennett Meeting, 1:00—4:00

The whole community is invited to gather outside for a time of remembrance, music and prayer, and then move inside for a community forum with a diverse panel of speakers who will share their expertise and perspectives.

## QuakerSpeak + PYM New Comer's Forum

QuakerSpeak



**FREE!** Saturday, May 5, 10 am-3 pm, Kennett Friends Meeting

Do you consider yourself a newcomer to Quakerism? Have you been attending your meeting for fewer than three years? **Then join us** in an engaging, experiential facilitation. We will explore the following queries:

What keeps you going to meeting?

What questions did you have about Quakerism?

What resources were helpful or would have been helpful in your exploration of Quakerism?

Help us help everyone make Quaker meetings welcoming and encouraging for all new people!

A catered lunch will be provided. **Register Now here:** [www.quakerspeak.com/forum](http://www.quakerspeak.com/forum)

## Upcoming Events .....

**Saturday mornings, 9 am** Fallowfield Meeting. Yoga Class led by member Sirpa Cossaboon, certified yoga instructor. All are welcome, beginners to more experienced. Donations accepted to benefit the Meeting and the People's Hall.

**April 14, 5:30 pm-7 pm Hockessin Friends FDS Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser** \$7 adults, \$5 kids suggested donations

**April 22, noon to 2 pm London Grove Friends Kindergarten - Spring Open House.** Classrooms will be open and teachers on hand. Check out our new mud kitchen and fairy garden too! Questions? Contact the school at 610-268-8466 or [info@londongrovefriendskindergarten.com](mailto:info@londongrovefriendskindergarten.com).

**May 4-6 Camp Swatara** Middle and high school Friends programs. REGISTER by April 20 - [Details here](#).

**May 5, 11 am-3 pm Fun Fair** at Fairville Friends Preschool [Details here](#).

**May 5, 9:15 am—3:15 pm Extended Worship** at Marlborough Friends Meeting. [Details online here](#).

**May 12, 7 am—2 pm PLANT SALE** at London Grove Friends. Lunch/bake sale to benefit LGF Kindergarten

**May 12, 3 pm They Being Dead Yet Speaketh**, talk by Christopher Densmore. At Marlborough Friends Meeting. [Details](#)

**May 19 Hockessin Friends Friendship Dinner** with presentation by Wild Birds Unlimited (time TBD)

**May 19-20 Bucks Quarter Overnight at Camp Onas** — ALL invited. [Details here](#)

**May 26-27 PYM Spring Family Overnight**—[Details here](#)

**June 2, 9:15 am—3:15 pm Extended Worship** at Chester Meeting [Details here](#)

**June 3— June 10 Kennett Friends Host Family Promise** families. Contact Sarah (skastriner@comcast.net) to volunteer.

**June 10 Hockessin Friends Annual Picnic**

**June 24, noon— 4 pm Tubing on the Brandywine** Bring bathing suits, towels & something yummy to share. Fun for all ages. [Details & directions here](#).

### Historic Meetings Summer Worship Schedule 2018

**London Britain Meeting** 10:30 am Each First Day, 6/3 thru 9/3

**Old Kennett Meeting** 9 am 6/24, 7/29 & 8/26

**Pennsgrove Meeting** 10 am 6/24, 7/22 & 8/26

**Homeville Meeting** 2 pm 5/27 & 8/26

**Parkersville Meeting** 2 pm 9/9

Locations and directions available on the WQM website.

### Employment Opportunity:

#### Youth Activities Coordinator and/or FDS Position

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. This is an hourly position with an expectation of up to 20 hours per month. Compensation based on experience. Evening and weekend availability required. Click here for the full posting and job description. Please submit a resume and cover letter outlining interest and experience to: [coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org](mailto:coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org)

**PLUS**— London Grove Friends is looking to hire a regular FDS teacher to prep and lead class once a month, at \$60 per month. *Positions may be combined, or applied for separately.*

### Minutes of the Meeting for Business of the Western Quarterly Meeting held on 21 January 2018 at Kennett Monthly Meeting, 1:10 PM to 3:06 PM

Kennett MM hosted the January Business Meeting of Western Quarterly Meeting (WQM); in attendance were 12 Friends from Centre, London Grove, Fallowfield, Kennett, Mill Creek, Newark, and West Grove Monthly Meetings (MMs). The January theme of the WQM was "Peace is a Verb; Love is the First Action."

21.01: Un-programmed Worship: During, Friends from provided responses to January query.

21.02: Co-Clerk Ariana Langford (Newark) provided a brief, recent history of the Youth Activities Coordinator's position. She expressed concerns and sentiments regarding the following: (a) intergenerational impact; (b) resources for

robust programs; (c) curriculum-based activities; (d) listening to and hearing the voices of the youth about programming; (e) expanding hours of Youth Activities Coordinator; (f) service projects based on interests; and, (g) Youth Activities Coordinator's involvement in First Day Schools. **Note:** WQM has about 30 youth in its membership.

**21.03:** Friends affirmed the October Minutes from the WQM, with a correction regarding 20.45.a.

**21.04: Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Stan Glowiak (Centre) presented a detailed Financial Report (review report), highlighting that we are at 49.8% of our budgeted income. He noted that the closed meetings are London Britain, Parkersville, and Penn's Grove. Also, Friends discussed adding "Constant Contact" to the "Outreach" expense line. Also, he verbally updated the "Note" found at the bottom of page two (2) of Report to reflect monies he had acquired after printing: *"Eight Monthly Meetings had met half of their annual Covenant; one monthly meeting was one quarter in arrears, and one meeting had not paid any amount to their Covenant."* **Friends affirmed** the Finance Committee's recommendation **to establish and maintain an Operating Reserve Fund and a Capital Reserve Fund.**

**21.05:** Margaret Walton (London Grove) agreed to write the Minute of Appreciation to Kennett MM for hosting the January 2018 WQM.

WQM adjourns at 2:25.

**WQM Inc Meeting** is called to order at 2:26 PM.

(a) Friends heard and received a report of the Friends Home in Kennett. After the report, a Friend asked what is meant by the "care" relationship between the Friends Home and WQM. Friends agreed to ascertain what that "care" meant and will report out in a few months.

(b) Friends heard the Annual Report of the London Britain Property Committee. The report covered maintenance and repair issues, the graveyard on the property, and the addition and placement of a "hidden entrance" sign on New London Road. The total amount in the checking is \$7,982 with income from Friends Fiduciary. The London Britain Committee Report, upon request, can be obtained from the WQM Coordinator Sarah Kastriner. The London Britain Committee has the following Friends serving: Mike McDowell, Wayne Thompson, Shelley Hastings, Tom Elueterio, Wendy Lpleam, Treba Thompson, and Ruth Thompson.

WQM Inc. adjourned at 2:44 PM.

WQM is again Call to Order at 2:45 PM.

**21.06: Youth Activities Coordinator.** Friends agreed to advertise for the position highlighting the expectation of up to 20 hours a month, paying no more than \$15 an hour.

**21.07: Officer Search/Nominating:** Nominating Committee should organize and have a report by June 30.

**21.08: Updates**

(a) *Website Transition:* The goals of the website are present information, connect with each other and public, and be accessible. WQM no longer uses the nearly obsolete "Local Quaker." We "own" our URL. WQM Coordinator Sarah expressed appreciation to Anthony Taylor (Fallowfield) for his insight and input. Friends agreed to Sarah's suggestion to send Anthony a Minute of Appreciation;

(b) *William Jackson Fund:* Application updated and announcement will be made in March;

(c) *Property Survey:* We should collect information on inactive MMs.

(d) *April Quarterly Meeting* is scheduled at Mill Creek. Friends agreed to rent a porta-potty.

**21.09: Announcements & Events**

(a) Smile Train Sewing resumes in the spring and involves sewing small blankets for children; contact Mary Sproat of West Grove for more information and location;

(b) For events throughout Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, go to its Events Page;

(c) April Quarterly is April 15, 2018 at Mill Creek located at 1140 Doe Run Road; Newark, DE;

(d) West Grove, PA Constitution, w/ PA Senator Andy Dinniman, March 15, 7 PM; and,

(e) WQM Support Meeting will meet on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at 3 PM at Kennett MM.

Peace and Progress & Respectfully Submitted, tonya thames taylor, WQM Recording Clerk

**Minutes of the Support Committee of the Western Quarterly Meeting held on  
18 March 2018 at Kennett Monthly Meeting, 3:10 PM to 5:08 PM**

Kennett Monthly Meeting (MM) hosted; in attendance were **13** Friends from Centre, London Grove, Fallowfield, Hockessin, Kendal, Kennett, London Grove, New Garden, Newark, and West Grove Monthly Meetings (MMs). *Crosslands Worship Group represented also.*

**21.10: Un-programmed Worship.**

**21.11: MM shared current activities:** Activities among MMs varied: Reading and discussing the book, *Waking Up White*; construction activities of First Day classrooms; peace activities that acknowledge the results of gun violence; Family Promise outreach; writing elected politicians; fundraising for a mission; Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) priorities; emerging spiritual groups; People's Hall's fundraising efforts; supporting new families with children with Easter programming; a gathering to discuss grief and loss; and, hiring of First Day teacher. **Special Note:** *On Sunday, March 18, a covered meeting emerged at London Grove in response to the passing of Friend Thomas Macaluso. Visitation for Thomas is at the Kuzo & Grieco Funeral Home, Thursday, March 22, 6-8 PM; the memorial service is Friday, March 23, 3 PM at London Grove MM.*

**21.12:** Friends affirmed the January Minutes from the WQM.

**21.13: Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Stan Glowiak (Centre) addressed a QuickBook entry and shared that subsequent notes will address such in future financial reports. Also addressed: (1) This quarter (Jan-Mar) received six quarterly payments from MMs; (2) email reminders sent to MMs treasurers about quarterly payments; (3) reconciliation of QuickBooks and bank statements will occur in early April; (4) Friends Fiduciary (FF) general unrestricted account is a part of this year's operating budget (\$925 to date/ \$1850 annual). *Query: What will be the possible impact of FF distributions on next year's budget?*

**21.14: Finance Committee Update:** Guiding Query of a January 2018 Finance Committee Meeting of WQM Treasurers: *What do we do with the unrestricted funds of \$130K belonging to the WQM?* Friends, at that meeting, discussed various options: (1) Use 50% of the quarter's operating budget to build a contingency fund (roughly \$40K); (2) Have a capital reserve of \$500,000; (3) Use some reserve for special projects, including capital projects. Clerk of Finance Committee, Richard "Dick" Logan (Hockessin), sent an email to MM treasurers to share with MMs for discussion of the three proposed options. Four meetings responded thus far, with one, London Grove, responding with a specific minute. Support Committee received the London Grove's Minute and will read it at April's Quarterly Meeting with WQM. Support Committee affirmed the act of sending the London Grove Minute to MMs with a preamble outlining the context, including a brief discussion of the email sent by Dick Logan.

**21.15: Nominating Committee Formation.** Karen Halstead (New Garden), Debby Brumbaugh (Kennett), Margaret Walton (London Grove), and Wayne Thompson (Newark) are members of the sprint to nominate for WQM Officers.

**21.16: William Jackson Applications for Review:** Support Committee formed a sprint committee consisting of Karen Halstead (New Garden) and Shelly Hastings (Newark) to review the applications. Coordinator Sarah Kastriner will distribute applications digitally.

**21.17: Youth Program Discussion & Youth Activities Coordinator (YAC) Position.** Claire Brandenburg (Kennett) will facilitate the Youth Activities Program for the April WQM Quarterly. Support Committee discussed the YAC position, particularly expectations regarding pay and hours. Currently, the YAC position is advertised on the WQM website and will post on other Quaker sites in upcoming days. A more detailed discussion regarding the budget(s) for youth program and YAC will continue at the next meeting.

**21.18: Quarterly Meeting Update:** Mill Creek MM, April 15, 2018, starts at 9 AM. Program centers in Tai Chi Chuan for both youth and adult. MMs are asked to respond to Third Query. Some MMs are using the new *Faith & Practice (F&P)*, a few are not. During this transition to the new *F&P* and afterwards, a Friend suggested adding/placing the query on future flyers advertising the WQM to MMs and online, so all respond to the same query. Friends agreed with that suggestion.

*Adjourned with silent worship.*

Peace and Progress & Respectfully Submitted,

tonya thames taylor, WQM Recording Clerk, (draft submitted on 3/18/2018)