



Western Quarterly News

of the Religious Society Of Friends

Western Quarterly Meeting Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2019

What can one say in a moment?

Over many years of experience, I have found it useful to be able to take the opportunity of a moment and to be able to explain to others matters of great importance to me, our Quaker purpose. I call it my Quaker elevator speech. Importantly it is something we can share with newcomers and visitors to our meetings. I will share it with you.

"The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) calls all to join in creating a world of reconciliation, healing and wholeness among all people. We seek a life of harmony with each other and the earth on which we live.

You are invited to participate in our worship. We are a deeply spiritual body in which we seek God's truths based on our personal experience. We seek a life that has purpose; integrity and is supported by a loving and caring community.

From the Clerk

April Quarterly Meeting details

First Query

January Quarterly Meeting and Continuing Sessions

Events

We gather for worship every Sunday morning. Our worship is in the form of silent meditation with occasional spoken messages from the worshipers. Mutual greetings, announcements, all-age First Day classes and discussion groups follow worship.

We would be blessed if you would visit us."

Mark Myers, Clerk Western Quarterly Meeting

Quarterly Meeting – April ☾ Western & Concord Quarters

At Wilmington Friends School

Sunday, April 28, 2019

5 Steps to Stop Your Implicit Racial Bias, with Dr. Amanda Kemp

April 28 is Quarterly Meeting!

with Joint Worship and Program with Concord Quarter
at Wilmington Friends School (101 School Road, Wilmington, DE)

8:45-9am Sign-In

9-10:15am Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business - for each Quarter

10:30-11:30am Joint Meeting for Worship

11:45 am -12:45pm Lunch for ALL -

Sandwich platters provided by Wilmington and Newark MMs

Bring a side dish or dessert or drinks to share and eating utensils if you do not wish to use paper products provided

1-3pm Dr. Amanda Kemp will lead us through

5 Steps to Stop Your Implicit Racial Bias

(ALL experience and comfort levels welcome)

Joint Children's Program during Meeting for Worship and Afternoon Program for elementary and middle school Friends.

Child Care available during all programs (not lunch).

Pre-registration helpful and available on the Concord Quarter website

<https://concordquarter.org/special-events/amandakempworkshop>

First Query - Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Worship

For the Meeting:

- Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God?
- As we worship in the living silence, are we drawn together by the power of God in our midst? Do we experience a deep reverence for the integrity of creation?
- How does our worship nurture all worshippers, creating a deeper sense of community?

How does our meeting encourage vocal ministry that spiritually nurtures the worshipping community?

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, 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 relationships with other persons and with all of creation?*
- *Does worship enhance my capacity for attentive, non-judgmental listening to others?*

How does participation in meeting for worship contribute to my life-long spiritual journey?

January Quarterly Meeting Program: FCNL Presents

More than 30 Friends gathered in the cozy warmth of Center Meeting to hear from Diana Ohlbaum as she presented her work with Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). FCNL is the largest progressive lobby in Washington, DC. As director of FCNL's foreign policy lobbying team, Diana is working against the idea that the US has the right, responsibility and power to control the whole world, to our benefit. The military paradigm, she says, is that we think we are making ourselves safer by making others less safe. Friends push back against that claim, advocating for alternate beliefs, assumptions and systems to replace how we currently operate. Another problem with our foreign policy is that the American people aren't likely to vote on policies they don't feel affected by, though our current *modus operandi* affects each and every one of us. FCNL has developed Advocacy Teams to help educate and motivate concerned Americans in local groups on multiple issues. There is an FCNL Advocacy Team at Kendal; one is needed in Delaware. Anyone interested in joining (or starting!) a team can learn more online here: <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/advocacy-teams-37>.

Continuing Sessions at Reading, PA

Many began the day at Berks County Residential Center for an action led by Young Adult Friends and The Shut Down Berks Interfaith Witness. The facility serves as an ICE detention center for families. The action included multi-generational and semi-programmed worship. Interpreters provided English and Spanish translations of ministry. There were many Young Friends in attendance; learning about detention and immigration policies was part of their day's programming.

The business session had a full agenda. Young Adult Friends and the Presiding Clerk shared a reflection on the morning's action. Melissa Rycroft presented for Nominating Committee. We approved two new alternate clerks, Jonathan Rhoads and Terry Cooke, and then approved Chis Lucca to serve as our Clerk. From there we moved to a minute from Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting concerning ways to continue exploring the realities of institutional racism within Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. We also heard from the Multicultural Audit Steering Committee. We accepted their report and released them from service. Minutes should come soon to the PYM website.

New Face in the Quarter Please welcome, Deb Wood (Westtown MM) to the Western Quarterly Meeting office. In March she started sharing the coordinator role with Sarah. Deb recently retired from a 28 year teaching career in public and Friends schools. Most recently she chaired the History department at Westtown School. One of her first post-retirement activities was to complete facilitator training with the Alternatives to Violence Project AVP. She will participate in her first workshop as a leader at Project New Start at Widener University in late April.

Western Quarterly Meeting expresses deep gratitude for the Friends of London Grove Meeting for hosting Quarterly Meeting on October 20, 2018. On this, the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the building of London Grove Meeting House for the benefit of Western Quarter, we felt truly gathered and celebrated as a Society of Friends. All enjoyed the show as wonderful skits brought our shared history to life, and the research and care that went into producing the program was evident. Equally delightful was the fellowship and the lunch – so delicious that every crumb was consumed. Our Worship together was deep, and ministry well-spoken. The children delighted in creating an old-time festival of sorts, and in the end over 90 Friends joined the celebration.

WQM Kid's Corner -- April Joint Quarterly Meeting Children's Program Concurrent with Meeting for Worship and Adult Program

We Are All Connected

Worship Sharing - Stories - Mandala Making - Songs



**Featuring Western and Concord Quarter Youngsters ,
Claire Brandenburg Taylor, Teal Rickerman, and
Melinda Wenner Bradley**

Register [here](#)

Interested in volunteering with the program?

E-mail youthwqm@gmail.com

10:30-11:30am Meeting for Worship and Children's Program

11:45 am -12:45pm Lunch for all

1-3pm Crafts and Games

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS in PYM!

CAMP SWATARA May 3-5, 2019

The Camp Swatara gathering bridges the community of Young Friends and Middle School Friends — Quaker and Quaker-friendly folks!

See more here: https://www.pym.org/event/camp-swatara-2019/?instance_id=2098

Register here <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=DTU4U4>

SPRING FAMILY OVERNIGHT AT CAMP DARK WATERS, Medford, NJ May 4-5

[Spring Family Overnight 2019](#) @ Camp Dark Waters

Families with children Kindergarten to 5th Grade come together from across the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting region for an unforgettable overnight retreat! They will continue to explore the theme, "Who is My Neighbor?" Questions e-mail Melinda Wenner Bradley, PYM Youth Engagement Coordinator at MWenner-Bradley@pym.org.

Plan for Annual Sessions, July 24-28, with program for youth of all ages!

Events and other announcements

Friendship Dinner Hockessin Friends Meeting Saturday, April 13 Potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. and program at 7:00 p.m. Guest speaker, Mary Cairns, will share about her work with Pardada Pardidi Education Society, an Indian non-profit organization, located in Anupshahr, Uttar Pradesh. Mary is committed to bringing quality medical care to the students, staff, and villagers of Annupshar, one of the very poorest regions of the country.

Events and other announcements

Homeville Friends Meeting will be open on the 4th first day of May and the 4th first day of August at 2PM. All are welcome.

Hockessin Friends Meeting FDS Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser, MY 4 5:00-6:30 p.m. All funds will go toward repayment of internal mortgage. Cost: \$7 for adult; \$5 for children under 13.

At Kennett Friends Meeting House - Subliminal Racism: Power & Privilege: How subliminal racism affects society, education, politics, and each of us as individuals. Presented by Pastor C. Ernie Stevens. Thursday, May 2 at 6:30pm.

London Grove Monthly Meeting will host "Healing" the final program in its Religious Education Series "Quakers and Indigenous Peoples: Exploring Relationships" on May 25. Meeting for Worship 9:30-10:30 am. Religious Education 10:45-11:45am.

Friends Peace Teams Coming May 15-19 - FPT will hold its annual meeting at the Cabin at Westtown School. Annual Meeting sessions are open to the public. FPT members would like to worship with area Friends on Sunday, May 19 and share more about their work in Central America, Asia West Pacific, and the African Great Lakes region at that time. Meetings interested in this should reach out to Deb in the WQM office or via wqmfriends@gmail.com. Friends Peace Teams will present at Kennett MM during First Day School at 9:30, on Sunday, May 19.

Minutes from Quarterly Meeting and Support Committee are available here: <http://westernquarterquakers.org/business-meeting-info/>

Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Western Quarterly Meeting held on 20 January 2019 at Centre Monthly Meeting,

Meeting began at 9:30 am with 17 Friends in attendance from London Grove, Kennett, West Grove, Newark, Centre, Mill Creek and Kendal MMs

21.53: Un-programmed Worship with responses to the 10th Query Responses were read from New Garden, Newark, West Grove, and Mill Creek MMs. Clerk closed Worship with welcome and introductions (since we were a small group).

Consideration of the Minutes of Western Quarterly Meeting October 21, 2019 (Approved)

Treasurer's Report (15 min)

This report covers first half (6 months) of our fiscal year. Appreciation to Stan for diving in to learn QuickBooks and manage our accounts these past 6 months since losing our bookkeeper last summer. Thanks also expressed to Doug Myers for his encouragement and support of Stan in this process. He is keen to continue learning but feels that having a professional bookkeeper to supplement his work is still a good idea. We will keep the search open. We are a little behind on covenants, but each MM contributes on a different schedule. Newsletters went out in October, and there were enough stamps in the office to send them – hence no new costs. WQM sponsored Friends Home anniversary celebration in October, with a total of \$1100 to the FH. \$150 "short" on donations from MMs to WQM (\$600 in, \$750 to FH, some MMs contributed directly to FH.) Note: may want to consider updating our logo to include "RoSF". (report attached)

Q was raised if Stan continues to do the bookkeeper's work, should he be compensated for it? Good question and should be considered. (Stan is not interested in becoming the bookkeeper – we should continue search for now.)

Finance Committee Report (5 min) Still seeking a part-time bookkeeper to work a few hours per month and help with quarterly reconciliation. May need to consider alternatives if no applicants are found by next QM.

Properties Working Group Report

Mark reviewed the numbers of inactive/historic MHs and additional support buildings in the quarter (see Oct minutes).

There are also a good number of burial grounds, which represent a perpetual obligation of care. The quarter will need to have a conversation around the stewardship of our burial grounds. (Teal) It was suggested the Quarter call/host a meeting of all Friends currently involved in the stewardship of burial grounds within the Quarter. Burial grounds can also be an opportunity for service though support for families (grief, etc.).

Members of the Working Group began visiting historic MH in December with Old Kennett & Parkersville. They met with the care committees for each, were updated on building condition & expected expenses, then “walked the property” and took a visual assessment. Each time the questions were asked, “Is there enough funding (endowments) to sustain maintenance in perpetuity?” And “What are the options for the best use of this property?” Best use is complicated by the burial grounds which are closely associated with the buildings (and close in proximity).

21.58 Annual Reports (15 mins)

WQM, Inc.

Clerk called a meeting of the Corporation to order at 10:22 am.

Nominating – John Beer has asked to step down from the Parkersville Committee. Lars Farmer is nominated to join that committee. Friends approved this nomination.

Parkersville MH Committee – read by Mary Sproat (attached)

London Britain MH Committee – read by Shelley Hastings (attached) Adele Baldwin passed away – she was very active with London Britain and will be missed. London Britain is not exactly inactive, more like ¾ active, in that Newark Friends hold Worship there from May to September.

Meeting of the Corporation was adjourned at 10:35 am.

April QM Update

Quarterly Meeting will next be held on Sunday, April 28, 2019 at Wilmington Friends School. We will hold MfB in the morning, then join with Concord Quarter for Worship, lunch and an afternoon program. A program on implicit bias and its role in racism will be led by Amanda Kemp, and will also be open to students, staff, and parents in the Wilmington Friends community. We will be contributing \$500 towards the costs of the program, as will Concord Quarter. An application will be made for a PYM outreach grant to cover the rest (about \$400). One member of the Quarter expressed a concern around spending this amount on one program, as well as wondering if Western Quarter Friends are already working “beyond” what might be seen as an “intro” level program. After some discussion, it was agreed that Amanda has a lot to offer with this program, there is always something to learn, and the money will be well spent. It was noted that April QM is the last in our FY, so funds will be available again July 1. Another member offered to compile a list of suggested readings for Friends in preparation for the April QM program. The list will be posted online and printed in the newsletter.

Coordinator also announced: PYM’s Outreach Thread Gathering (Feb. 9th at Abington Friends); call for nominations to PYM’s Sessions Planning Committee.

Minute of Appreciation for London Grove Friends Meeting (approved)

Meeting ended with silence at 10:51am

Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Western Quarterly Meeting held on 21 October 2018 at London Grove Monthly Meeting,

This Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business followed a well-attended, packed Western Quarterly Meeting. London Grove Meeting (MM) hosted; in attendance were 20 Friends from Centre, Fallowfield, Hockessin, Kendal, Kennett, London Grove, Mill Creek, New Garden, Newark, and West Grove Monthly Meetings (MMs). Crosslands Worship Group represented.

21.56: **Un-programmed Worship:** From the silence, we heard responses to the Ninth Query from Kennett, Newark, New Garden, and West Grove. The responses to the query are located at the end of these minutes.

21.57: Friends **affirmed** Minutes of Western Quarterly Support Meeting for September 16, 2018.

21.58: Friends enthusiastically **received Youth Activities Report** from Youth Activities Coordinator Claire Taylor: Fourteen (14) students participated in today's Quarterly Meeting. The full report follows these minutes.

21.50: **Treasurer's Report:** Friends reviewed report. A Friend inquired about newsletter expenses; the expenses will be included in next report because invoice is still outstanding having recently been received. WQM Treasurer Stan Glowiak explained the importance of timely payments regarding insurance. Also, we are looking to replace our current bookkeeper, who has enjoyed working with us but have gained employment elsewhere. A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been created, will be shared with MMs, and is posted on the website.

21.51: **Western Quarterly Meeting Property Committee Report:** Currently, the WQM has eight (8) meetinghouses, six (6) historic meetinghouses, six (6) buildings, and 17 burial grounds. Friends will focus on historic meetinghouses and their current relationships with Quarterly Meeting and Monthly Meetings. Over the next year, Friends agreed to the following next steps:

- Meet with the local committee attending the meetinghouse to check how it is working;

- Do a visual inspection of the building, exterior, and interior;

- Understand the level of activity for the buildings

- Assess the overall level of maintenance needs of the building;

- How much capital is needed?

- Determine whether restricted endowments exist for repairs; and

- What are options for this building to assure its best use?

Richard "Dick" Logan volunteered to join Mary Sproat, Mark Myers, Ariana Langford, Shelley Hastings, Margaret Moore, and Lars Farmer of the WQM Property Committee to do the work. Lively discussion followed this report, particularly in regards to the burial grounds and funding. During the discussion, it was announced that Mary Sproat will be at Downingtown MM on October 27, 2018, 10 AM to 3 PM. What issues face us when it comes to maintaining our historic properties and burial grounds? How do we honor their history by making them available for the future? How can we use them as tools for outreach? How do we fundraise for them?

21.52: **Coordinator's Report**

a. **Additional Property Committee Work:** Expenses associated with landscaping, like the cutting of trees impact funds of MMs; life of meeting also impacts prioritizing maintenance.

b. **QM Plans:** **January** (Centre, emphasizing Friends Community on National Legislation) and **April** (joint meeting with Concord Quarterly, possibly hosted at Wilmington Friends School, possibly emphasizing Implicit Bias by Dr. Amanda Kemp).

b. **Office and Records:** 70% of WQM records are unpacked; copier will not return. Older minutes will be digitized then transferred to Swarthmore, in accordance to WQM's normal practice.

c. **Bookkeeper RFP** (posted online). Bookkeeper is roughly \$2K annually.

d. **Parents' Morning Off:** In conjunction with Concord Quarter, on December 1, 2018, 9 AM-1 PM at The Cabin at Westtown. This fun-filled event gives free daycare for parents to do what they wish during morning hours and lunch.

e. **Haiti Fundraising:** Handmade goods and tag sale will be held on November 3 and 4, 2018, at West Grove Meeting House. Alyce Denver is collecting donations of goods now. They are in need of much in the way of donations: household items, antiques, fine art, crafts, baked goods and homemade jams and jellies, toys... and services are welcome too. Some examples already offered are: yoga lessons, a B&B experience, a special outing or story time for a group, baking lessons, and even a pie-a-month for a year. They are looking for more, such as knitting lessons,

an organize your house session, or a flat of seedlings in the spring. Be creative in your thinking, and join the effort. On Sunday, November 4, 2018, after worship service, Friends and the public are invited to hear speaker, Haitian Dr. Patrick Jeudy.

f. **Continuing Sessions:** Saturday, November 3, 2018, at Arch Street. Guiding Query: *How do we, as Friends, center ourselves toward trust and love?*

g. Minute of Appreciation to London Grove will be written by Coordinator Sarah Katriner and Mark Myers.

Closing Worship: Adjourned at 3:16 PM.

Submitted Faithfully on October 22, 2018,

Peace and Progress, Onward,

tonya thames taylor, Recording Clerk, Fallowfield MM

New Garden Monthly Meeting's Response to the 9TH Query

We make our faith and our practices known to others by example. We speak through our actions and our interest in education and schools. Friends attract people to the Society of Friends through their actions. They care for, and are concerned with, education and care of the elderly. Our care for the "here and now" is of greater concern than the "here after".

Newark Monthly Meeting's Response to the 9th Query

Friends from our meeting went to see "Black Klansman," a biographical film about a black detective who infiltrates a local chapter of the Klu Klux Klan." A Friend who saw the film found the movie challenging and familiar, having grown up in the deep south. Many acknowledge that racial prejudice is out there, even though it's not as extreme. However, this gives some the mistaken idea they don't have to face the issue. One Friend observed that she has seen even more prejudice in New Castle County, than elsewhere in this state. Our nation seems to be going backwards on this problem.

A Friend noted a recent Delaware Art Museum exhibit about the 50th anniversary of the occupation of Wilmington by the National Guard, highlighting racial injustice in the state. This was reportedly the longest occupation of an American city by armed forces since the Civil War. Friends reading of the book *Waking Up White*, was one of the ways we fulfilled section e, which asks, "Do I regularly examine myself for attitudes and behavior that indicate any hidden prejudice regarding race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or class?"

A Friend felt that as a meeting we have not had a problem acknowledging "that of God in every person." However, a Friend commented that it is very difficult at times to do this with people that aren't lovable. She has been told to try not hating, as an answer to this. Another Friend recalled that his meeting prayed for President Richard Nixon when Nixon was president. We were encouraged to try to find the place where humanity connects with each individual. Each of us has a piece of the truth. We were also reminded to be kind, because everyone we meet is fighting a hard battle. Also that, prejudice against prejudiced people doesn't go to the heart of the issue.

Kennett Monthly Meeting's Response to the 9th Query

One attender mentioned that we moved our funds from Wells Fargo to another bank because we felt their business practices lacked integrity. One member spoke about this Meeting's history of being reactive rather than working on issues in a proactive manner... For example, our committee and fund for immigration support came about in response to crisis in our community. Several members and attenders felt a very clear leading about what they were called to do, and most of us understand the nuances of white privilege, but we still struggle with this as a community. There is no active Peace and Social Justice Committee at Kennett Friends Meeting. Another member mentioned that we are all well-meaning, but we are also a little set apart in our well to do area of town. Even if our doors are open, those who need our help have no idea who we are, where we are, or what we have to offer.