



Western Quarterly News

of the Religious Society Of Friends

Western Quarterly Meeting Newsletter

Spring 2020

Letter to the Quarter,

As you noticed, I was not at the Quarterly Meeting in First Month of 2020. I was in Indonesia with Friends Peace Teams for a workshop. I had hoped there would be a time for this workshop that wouldn't conflict with work and family commitments, but its history as an annual workshop seemed set in November, and with the passing of my father, my mother felt my attending was the best tribute we could make for him. – Deb Wood, coordinator

Creating Cultures of Peace – a Friends Peace Teams Workshop

The 7th International Peace Training for Creating Cultures of Peace (CCP) was held in Pati, Central Java Province, Indonesia from Saturday, January 11 through Tuesday, January 21, 2020. There were 46 participants from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and communities in Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, the Philippines, Chechnya, South Korea, Taiwan, Aotearoa/New Zealand, the UK, and the USA. The participants were 12 to 80 years old.

The training process was a microcosm of living in a culturally and economically diverse community. Grants and fundraising helped many to get to the workshop. We officially functioned in two languages- English and Bahasa Indonesian. Frequently there were translations into Korean, Nepali, and several Javanese dialects. Foods needed to reflect customary diets yet the ingredients available were often familiar only to the Indonesians and Filipinas.

We all agreed that we benefited from the following:

- * Meeting people from other countries and forming new friendships;
- * The diversity of languages and cultures;
- * Being amazed at the diversity of the kinds of peace work being done by the great variety of participants;
- * Learning new knowledge and tools for peace.

In this Issue:

From the Coordinator -

**Gathering Together:
Support for Families
and First Day**

Second Query

Updates & Articles

Minutes

The start of each session was a set of simple instructions, "Stop; take three deep breaths; sit comfortably and relaxed; notice your heartbeat and the unconditional gift of life; open to the transforming power of life..." These grounded us in the workshop's operating principle: peace in the world begins first with peace in the self. Those steps also enable us to rely on our heart and our head to guide us rather than the basal ganglia (the reptilian brain that gives us three options when stressed: fight, flight or freeze.) From there we explored and practiced skills in listening, companionship, trauma healing, discernment, and speaking truth.

The workshop is built on the foundation of the Alternatives to Violence Project workshops. AVP's Transforming Power is at the center of the skills and approaches of CCP workshops.

Cont'd p.5

April Quarterly Meeting will be a virtual gathering.

Agenda and Timing to come!

Second Query - Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Business

For the Meeting:

- * Is our meeting for business held in worship in which we seek divine guidance?
- * How do we sustain prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and address difficult problems with a search for truth that is unhurried by the pressures of time?
- * Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?

General Queries are taken from the newest version of PYM's Faith and Practice, available online.

For the Individual:

- * *Do I regularly attend meeting for business? If unable to attend, how do I fulfill the responsibility to understand and embrace the decisions made?*
- * *How do I affirm and support God's presence in the process of discernment and reaching a decision?*
- * *Do I remain open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?*

Gathering Together: Support for Families and First Day Programs

Written on: MARCH 18, 2020 by Melinda Wenner Bradley, PYM Youth Engagement Coordinator

Last Sunday, a handful of families in my meeting decided to try online Children's Meeting (our First Day program for children) and worship together online. It was a last-minute decision to fire up my Zoom account and see how it worked. We posted the information on Facebook and sent out a quick email on the meeting listserv. Two hours later, when we gathered across households, we were joined by a former attender now living in Seattle, and three other PYM families who had seen the Facebook post. We came together across miles and even time zones to share songs, a reading, queries, and waiting worship. Listening to the quiet ticking of a clock in my house, that reminded me of so many meetinghouse clocks, I watched on screen where children were snuggled up with parents on the couch or coloring at the kitchen table next to adults with their eyes closed in worship. One child unmuted the laptop microphone and shared vocal ministry. In the stillness of us gathered, what rose in me was the reminder that our children are watching and learning from how we approach this time.

While adults in families are establishing new homeschool routines, managing children's time online, and finding ways to stay connected to friends and neighbors, **our meetings can be sharing ways to stay spiritually grounded and in community.** Some meetings will try online

programs and worship, and may invite others less tech-ready to join. There is a new, public group on Facebook, [“Valiant Together: Sharing Quaker Religious Education Support and Resources During COVID-19”](#) where Friends are sharing stories about how they are approaching First Day programming, including free resources for supporting families and children ([the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative has added an associated website page for resource sharing](#)). In coming weeks, there will be more teaching material specific to Quaker religious education at home and online, as we find our footing to generate and share new ideas. **Included below are links to pieces that seem like they might be helpful in these early days of the pandemic.**

Resource Sharing Conversation: Tuesday, March 24 at 1:00 PM, there will be an opportunity for Friends serving in children and youth religious education programs to gather for a conversation about what we’re trying, what we need, and how to support each other in this time. Join the Zoom Meeting online <https://zoom.us/j/644918895> OR dial in by phone: (646) 558-8656 with Meeting ID#644 918 895

Our children are watching and listening, giving us an opportunity to model flexibility and innovation, deep care for one another and our meeting community, alongside faith and hope. Each week will bring new pastoral care and resource needs as we navigate this time — let’s be present to one another, and gather together in the ways we can.

Illustrated Ministry is making coloring pages available for free during this time. [Sign up for free, weekly downloads](#), like the ones below.

[Prayers for When You Feel Anxious](#)
[God Calls Me . . .](#)

Teach Kids to Pray: Praying in Color

How to help your college student cope with a semester cut short by coronavirus (*helpful for high school, as well as college students*)

[Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring The New Coronavirus](#) (*middle school*)

[How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus](#) (*preschool and elementary*)

and, just for fun . . . **[30+ Virtual Field Trips for Families](#)** (*and meeting communities!*)

ADDENDUM 3/20/20: [Link to a guided lesson plan for families to use at home](#). The focus of the lesson is creating space for worship at home, and to remember, hope, and be present to where we are now. There are two ways to share: one uses a book, and I’ve included a YouTube link to see the book read if it’s not in a home collection. Last Sunday, a handful of families in my meeting decided to try online Children’s Meeting (our First Day program for children) and worship together online. It was a last-minute decision to fire up my Zoom account and see how it worked. We posted the information on Facebook and sent out a quick email on the meeting listserv. Two hours later, when we gathered across households, we were joined by a former attender now living in Seattle, and three other PYM families who had seen the Facebook post. We came together across miles and even time zones to share songs, a reading, queries, and waiting worship. Listening to the quiet ticking of a clock in my house, that reminded me of so many meetinghouse clocks, I watched on screen where children were snuggled up with parents on the couch or coloring at the kitchen table next to adults with their eyes closed in worship. One child unmuted the laptop microphone and shared vocal ministry. In the stillness of us gathered, what rose in me was the reminder that our children are watching and learning from how we approach this time.

Barclay Friends: Looking Towards the Future

by Linda Sterthous, Executive Director Barclay Friends

Barclay Friends was established as a Quaker community in 1893, dedicated to care of older persons in a supportive, homelike, and compassionate atmosphere. Informed by Quaker values, our staff uphold each resident's independence and dignity, in turn honoring their spirit, humanness and basic rights. The slogan *Grow With Us* speaks to the many ways we encourage the expression of creativity and learning, with a unique horticultural therapy and arts program that enriches the lives of our residents. Since 1994, Barclay Friends has been a Kendal affiliate.

Barclay Friends fosters a spirit of inclusion for residents and staff. We welcome all people, regardless of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, or disability. Our community offers an environment promoting respect, acceptance, and teamwork.

The skilled nursing community at Barclay Friends has three neighborhoods: Birmingham, Bradford and Goshen (named for Quaker Meetings). Consistent staff assignments in each neighborhood build trust, fondness and familiarity between staff and residents. Barclay Friends offers short term rehab in our on-site therapy gym, staffed by physical, occupational and speech therapists. Short term rehab serves as a bridge between a hospital stay and an individual's return to their own home in the community.

Preston: Coming in July 2020

Construction on the new personal care, memory care and residential living building is well underway. Named Preston after the 19th-century Quaker activist and physician Ann Preston, the building will be home for 60 new residents.

The layout of the building affords residents opportunities to enjoy natural light and open spaces. Residents will have easy access to outdoor gardens where they can enjoy the natural world and plant flowers and vegetables. Two gardens complete with accessible raised beds and walking paths will supplement the horticultural therapy program.

Twenty private apartments will house residents in need of secure memory care in a neighborhood called Bartram Way. The space is designed to maintain a sense of autonomy, continuous learning, personal fulfillment and independence. Bartram Way will have its own dining and activity space and will connect directly to a private garden.

Would you like to know more? Give us a call at 610-696-5211, visit our website at bf.kendal.org, or follow us on Facebook. Barclay Friends is located at 700 North Franklin Street, West Chester, PA 19380.

From PYM: Setting up your own video calls

As a staff, we are moving toward more video meetings. The tool for video calls called Zoom is easy to use. Your meeting or a Friend in your meeting could get an account for \$45/month which allows three users by going to www.zoom.us.

If your meeting is likely to only need Zoom meetings occasionally or simply want to try it out before committing, you can request a Zoom meeting to be set up by the PYM staff. We have increased our Zoom capacity to prepare for supporting you in this way. Use the form and make the request at least 3 days in advance.

To set up a Zoom meeting:

Go to the [Zoom Call Form](#) and complete this online form.

Additionally, note that facilitating a meeting by zoom is not the same as being in a room together. Here is a fantastic resource by [Friend Emily Provance about virtual clerking](#).

PYM news stories - We have published a series of news stories about pastoral care and meetings, about how we make decisions about holding events, about how staff is working at this time and more. To read those stories go to: <https://www.pym.org/category/public-health/>.

PS – I just received a really good resource from the PA Council of Churches, prepared by the Wisconsin Council of Churches. I recommend checking out [WCC's webpages](#) for resources on live-streamed worship and some good queries.

Christie

The CCP workshop adds sessions on the following topics to the AVP base: trauma healing, good companionship, discernment, and speaking truth to power. In addition, I took an additional few days to do facilitator practice and worked with participants to prepare, practice, and evaluate CCP mini sessions using stories from *The Power of Goodness*. These practice sessions I planned and led with my aunt.

The highlight of the first week was a visit to a nearby Muslim community, Tondomulyo. Just over ten years ago the community was essentially a closed community for reasons of poverty, class, violence, and religion. One of the newer members of the community, the imam's son-in-law, had come across AVP and began a relationship with Friends Peace Teams in hopes of lessening the violence and tension in and towards Tondomulyo. Now in 2020, the school across from the mosque attracts students from nearby villages, its curriculum and pedagogy are based on AVP and CCP, violence is down, and the work of Friends Peace Teams facilitators in this closed Muslim community has led to workshops in Afghanistan. Several village members participated in the workshop with us. We spent the morning visiting classes and celebrating their, and now, our joint community.



Students and families from the Tondomulyo school with Creating Cultures of Peace Workshop participants.

Moving forward with CCP and Friends Peace Teams...

While I can see myself co-facilitating AVP and CCP workshops around the world, I felt that my fluency in just one language may limit my usefulness. Yet, I also noted that the presence of Americans as participants strengthened the self-respect of the non-US participants. As fellow participants in a setting with facilitators from non-Western/developed countries, to work with Americans who came not in the imperial role that is too common, but as fellow peace and justice workers to learn more, gave the Americans a needed dose of humility and the non-American participants greater confidence.

During the workshop I thought forward to the upcoming Thread Gatherings on Diversity and Equity, and Trauma and Healing. Those Yearly Meeting Thread workshops fit with the CCP work. I knew there would likely be a place within my monthly meeting for what I learned from CCP and Friends Peace Teams as we continue to seek relationships and ways to support local and nonlocal justice movements, and several of us are members of the Middle East Collaborative. The skills and lessons certainly deepened my sense of how to be a Friend in daily interactions, and I hope, with tending and mindfulness, that those skills and attitudes will stay with me.

Historic Meetings Summer Worship Schedule 2020

London Britain Meeting 10:30 am Each First Day, starting 6/7

Homeville Meeting 2 pm 5/31 & 8/30

Old Kennett Meeting 9 am 6/28, 7/26 & 8/30

Pennsgrove Meeting 2pm 6/28, 7/26 & 8/23

Parkersville Meeting 2 pm 9/13

Colora Meeting to be confirmed



Addresses and Directions:

Homeville: 4904 Homeville Road, Cochranville, PA

Directions: Rt. 1 Bypass to Rt. 896, turn right (north 896) into village of Homeville, turn left onto Homeville Road and almost immediately turn right into Meeting House area.

London Britain: 1415 New London Road, Landenberg, PA

Old Kennett: 1013 East Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square

Pennsgrove: 725 Pennsgrove Road

Directions: Rt. 1 Bypass to Rt. 896, turn right (north). Left onto Pennsgrove Road, Meeting House is on the right.

Parkersville: 1232 Parkersville Road, Kennett Square

Directions:

Take Parkersville Road 1 mile north of Rt. 1. It is on the right 1/4 mile before Rt. 926.

Via Route 926, turn south onto Parkersville Road. It is on the left 1/4 mi. south of Rt. 926.

Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Western Quarterly Meeting held on 19 January 2020 at Mill Creek Monthly Meeting

This Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business followed a well-attended, packed Western Quarterly Meeting. Mill Creek Monthly Meeting (MM) hosted; in attendance were 24 Friends from Centre, Fallowfield, Hockessin, Kendal, Kennett, London Grove, Mill Creek, New Garden, Newark, and West Grove Monthly Meetings (MMs).

22.55: Un-programmed Worship convened at 12:33 PM: From the silence, we heard responses to the 11th and 12th Queries from Mill Creek, Hockessin, and West Grove.

Hockessin shared the following verbal messages to constitute their response to the Query on Simplicity and Integrity: *"It is ironic that simplicity is the query for Twelfth Month when December is the start of the shopping season." "I wonder about the effect of excess on children. When they grow up, they expect so much and then they face reality." "Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. No gifts exchanged as they are at Christmas or Valentine's Day. Happiness isn't from things, it's from experiences."*

West Grove shared the following: *"The Eleventh Query on Witnessing in the World: Education was read. Messages spoke of the distinct difference of two subjects in this Query—public education and Friends Schools. Private schools exclude—they do not have to take the child who acts up or doesn't want to be there. There is a political factor in public education because decision makers run the schools; they must be held to accountability in making it a priority to improve public education. Quaker schools do not have special education classes, to the disappointment of one parent present. But the key is that education starts in the home—parents are the first teachers. Both parents and the community must see education as a priority. Friends wondered if there is a way that the Meeting can actively engage with the public schools but no way has opened as yet."*

Mill Creek shared the following responses in the form of statements on the *Eleventh Query on Witnessing in the World: Education*. The Meeting (1) *supports public education by paying individual taxes, but wished they could do more*; (2) *Middle Creek would help an adult member who wanted more Quaker Education*; and, regarding Friends Education, *Mill Creek welcomes children into its main Meeting*. Also, *Mill Creek highlights and supports the work of member, Teal Rickerman, who is active in youth Quaker programs and Advisory Committee with PhYM*.

22.56 Friends **approved** Minutes of Western Quarterly Support Meeting for December 8, 2019, correcting that the minutes should be labeled as **"Minutes of the Support Committee Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Western Quarterly Meeting"** to alert readers of the type of gathering the December Meeting Minutes captured.

22.57: Friends enthusiastically **received Clerk Mark Myers' nomination of Bob Frye of London Grove MM as Western Quarter Clerk for two years**. Friends heard Bob Frye share his experiences underscoring the statement "Quakerism is not so much a religion, but a way of life." He explained why Quarterly Meeting is so important. Address what we can do for one another and the larger community.

22.58: **Consideration of Bucks Quarter Minute of August 2019 (read attached)**: Hockessin, Newark, Centre met unity with the minute. Fallowfield and Mill Creek did not meet with unity on the minute. London Grove, Kendal, Kennett, and West Grove have not considered the Minute as of this WQM gathering. Today's WQM's conversation centered on the Minute's emphasis to encourage the ban on private sales of assault rifles. Friends agreed to carry this conversation over to the next WQM in April 2020. Friends were asked to take the discussion heard at this WQM surrounding this Minute back to their MMs for fuller discussion and to return to the Western Quarter in April 2020 with a position, if possible.

22.59: **Treasurer's Report**: Friends **reviewed** and **expressed appreciation** for the report. A Friend inquired about "Expense 403: Evolution Expense." WQM Treasurer Stan Glowiak explained that some meetings are lagging in covenant payments to Quarter. Office space expense will be paid by April 2020. Friend inquired about the \$3K allocation for Accounting/Bookkeeping in "Expense 630." Treasurer explained she creates reports, but he creates and pays expenses. Treasurer Stan Glowiak will ask the bookkeeper to include an additional line of explanation at the end of the report to explain the "difference" number.

22.60: **London Britain Meeting Report (read attached)**: Friends **approved** the report given by Shelley Hastings (Newark). The meeting will be opened on February 8, 2020, at 9 AM for tour.

22.61: **Pennsgrove Property**: A report will be given at WQ in April 2020.

22.62: **Joint Quarterly Meeting of Concord and WQ**: April 26, 2020 at Kennett Friends. Any suggestions on topics for the Joint Quarterly, please send to WQ Coordinator Deb Wood.

22.63: **Communications Query**: A presiding clerk asked MMs how they handled distribution lists/email addresses. In general conversation, each MM handles communication differently. A suggestion was made that the WQ Coordinator should gather responses from individual MM and these responses be used as a WQ resource guide.

22.64: **Minute of Appreciation to Mill Creek written by Margaret Walton**: *With deep gratitude, Western Quarterly Meeting minutes appreciation for Mill Creek Monthly Meeting's hosting of the January 19, 2020 Quarterly Meeting at Mill Creek, Newark, De. We were greeted warmly and offered coffee and coffee cake, tea and scones before gathering in the coal-stove heated meeting room for the program. Teal Rickerman introduced the 30+ people filling the meeting room to the concept of mandalas—geometric designs with a long history of use for generating understanding, intentions, focus, healing and hope. She explained how we would be using colored paper, scissors, glue, markers and ingenuity, to create our own mandalas, incorporating balance—equality in amount, weight, value or importance. We gathered materials and settled in for Gail Bisio to help us meditate on balance using breathing patterns as we considered, with her guidance, our relationship to the sun, earth, air, fire, water and ether. When ready, each person began to create his or her unique mandala. The results were beautiful and, when displayed across the front facing bench of the sun-filled meeting room, the mandalas provided bursts of color as lovely as quilt blocks. It was particularly enjoyable and enlightening to have some of the participants interpret their mandalas. Worship followed the program with several messages arising from what we experienced while meditating and creating the mandalas. We all enjoyed a nourishing lunch of fresh salad, sandwiches and homemade soups. Representatives from 10 monthly meetings stayed for the business meeting where we approved the nomination of WQM's new clerk, Bob Frye (London Grove).*

Next Support Committee: Kennett Meeting, Sunday, March 8, 2020, 3 PM.

Closing Worship: Adjourned at 2:03 PM.

Submitted Faithfully on March 7, 2020,
Peace and Progress, Be Kinder to Yourself,
 tonya thames taylor, Recording Clerk, Fallowfield MM

DRAFT Minutes of the Support Committee for Worship with Attention to Business of the Western Quarterly Meeting held on 8 March 2020 at Kennett Monthly Meeting

Support Committee Meeting included: Stan Glowiak (Treasurer; Centre), tonya thames taylor (WQ Recording Secretary of Minutes; Fallowfield), Richard Logan (Hockessin), Deb Wood (WQ Coordinator; Kennett), Margaret Walton (Acting Clerk of this one Support Committee Meeting; London Grove), Bob Frye (Rising Clerk; London Grove), Karen Halstead (New Garden), Pownall Jones (Crossland Worship Group), and Mary Sproat (West Grove). Shelley Hastings, David Elder, Mark Myers, and Sarah Kastriner sent regrets. ***Bold Numbered Items denote an Action Item**

22.65: Un-programmed Worship convened at 3:01 PM.

22.66: Friends **approved** Minutes of Western Quarterly Business for January 20, 2020 with necessary corrections.

22.67: Treasurer's Report: Stan Glowiak (Centre) **approved with gratitude the report.** The Treasurer reported the following: *"As of February 29, 2020 we were two-thirds through Western Quarter's fiscal year, that's 67%, as benchmark of sorts. Total Covenant collected is at 46.5%. Total investment income is at almost 54% with most of that from our Friends Fiduciary Unrestricted account which is applied to our budget expenses. Total INCOME than is almost 52%. Total Western Quarter EXPENSES for payroll, office, and program is almost 65%. Total Western Quarter Expenses 52%."* One Friend asked if the Treasurer had an idea about next year's budget, Treasurer reported yes from casual conversations with various treasurers.

22.68: State of Meeting Questionnaire from PYM: Monthly Meetings (MM) have been asked to complete a State of Meeting Report. So far for WQM, Newark has completed and shared their report with WQ. Hockessin completes one annually and sends directly to PYM; this year, they will share their report with WQ. Centre has a draft report. **Action:** Newark's State of Meeting Report will be sent to MMs as template for how to write up/complete a report. State of Meeting Reports will be shared with MM clerks as they come in to WQ. WQ will send a collective packet of MMs' State of Meeting Reports to PYM. Rationale: The reason WQ is asking MMs to send their reports to WQ is to help WQ understand what each MM prioritizes and does, which will help us get a good idea of the State of the WQ.

22.69: Joint Quarterly Meeting of Concord and WQ: On April 26, 2020 at Kennett Friends, 9-3 PM, Better Angels, will conduct a skills workshop, with an emphasis on listening. The Coordinators for both Quarters have had conversations with Better Angels' representatives about the Afternoon Program, which starts at 1 PM. WQ agrees to donate \$100 and split cost for photocopies. The Children's program, which also deals with listening, is being finalized. Also, plans in regards to food and refreshments, are underway. **Action:** Please Attend.

22.70: CoronaVirus (COVID-19) Precautionary Plan: WQ is sensitized to this issue. WQ Coordinator Deb Wood serves as WQ's point of contact on this issue. Our contingency plan includes the possible use of ZOOM. **Action:** WQ Coordinator Deb Wood will contact PYM to learn more about the possible ability that Western Quarterly has to use ZOOM through PYM before research subscription plans. WQ is considering using the updates and directions of the Chester County (PA) Health Department to discern our actions involving COVID-19.

22.71: Tentative Agenda for April WQ: Agenda includes: Buck Quarter Minute (please bring statements to morning WQ Business Meeting); Pennsgrove Property Report; State of the Meeting Reports; Coordinator's Report; and, Treasurer's Report.

22.72: General Topics: Should the WQ have an employee handbook? **Action:** Richard "Dick" Logan (Centre) will share notes of draft descriptions of duties for officers and committees.

Next Quarterly Committee: Kennett Meeting, Sunday, April 26, 2020, 9-3 PM.

Next Support Committee: Kennett Meeting, Sunday, June 14, 2020, 3 PM.

Closing Worship: Adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Peace and Progress, Be Kinder to Yourself,

tonya thames taylor, Recording Clerk, Fallowfield MM