



Coordinator Report
Fourth Month 2020

During February and early March, I worked with Claire Brandenburg Taylor, Western Quarter Youth Coordinator, and Lynne Piersol, Concord Quarter Coordinator to plan youth and adult program activities for a Joint Western and Concord Quarter gathering. The focus of the programs was to be on conflict and listening. We arranged with [Braver Angels](https://braverangels.org) (formerly Better Angels, <https://braverangels.org>) for the afternoon's program. Several monthly Meetings across the Yearly meeting had hosted a Braver Angels program, and Friends in both Quarters had recommended the organization to us. Braver Angels formed shortly after the November 2016 election by two friends, a Republican and a Democrat, who wanted to lessen the political polarization and demonization that had increased. Braver Angels trains volunteer facilitators to lead workshops, skills trainings, and modified debates to help us hear, listen, and understand each other across the political divide.

As new parameters around public gatherings began to unfold, we quickly reached out to Braver Angels to postpone their 26 April program to a Joint Quarter gathering 19 July. Our Braver Angels facilitators concurred and have a program, hopefully to be done in person, but potentially virtually, the afternoon of 19 July. Braver Angels began in March to adapt their programs for virtual formats and to additionally train their facilitators to lead online programs. The next newsletter will feature more about the Braver Angels facilitators scheduled to work with us in July.

Youth programming that Claire and the Youth Programming committee of Concord Quarter designed for 26 April will be used for the 19 July gathering.

We hope to hold an in-person Joint Quarter gathering at Kennett Friends Meeting on 19 July, Kennett Friends and COVID-19 conditions permitting.

Finding and sharing virtual resources for Monthly Meetings is a new part of the work I am doing as coordinator. If your Meeting has a designated person for receiving and forwarding e-mail communications or another person takes on that responsibility, please be sure to let me know, coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org. Several Monthly Meetings in our Yearly Meeting are offering midweek virtual meetings for worship. Please check the [calendar](https://www.pym.org/calendar/cat_ids~849/) at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for the most up-to-date schedule. https://www.pym.org/calendar/cat_ids~849/.

I spent several First Days managing a virtual meeting for worship for Crosslands Worship Group. They are going to go independent as of 26 April, so I am looking forward to worshipping virtually with other Meetings in Western Quarter.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Wood
20 April, 2020