



Western Quarterly News

of the Religious Society Of Friends

Western Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Summer 2021

FROM THE COORDINATOR

There is an employment opportunity within Western Quarterly Meeting. Please note it to people you know who enjoy working with children.

Youth Activities and Education Coordinator Position Western Quarterly Meeting 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 throughout the year. Familiarity with or openness to Quaker beliefs would be helpful. This is a flexible hourly position with an expectation of 5-20 hours per month depending on the program calendar. Compensation based on experience and education. Weekend availability required.

Please submit a resume and cover letter outlining interest and experience

to: coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org

For upcoming Annual Sessions, consider holding watch sessions at your Meeting or perhaps at someone's home.

West Chester Monthly Meeting decided to apply what they learned with hybrid worship to come together for the Keynote presentations. They will be able as a Meeting to experience together the spiritual nurture and wider community of Friends.

See more at [PYM News](#)

The Annual Sessions schedule includes

worship sharing—Bible study—affinity spaces—Reports from DEI, Antiracism, Climate Change, Membership and Belonging Threads—Spiritual Formation retreat

See www.pym.org for all the details and to register

In this Issue:

Employment Opportunity

Sixth Query

Annual Session Highlights

Quarterly Meeting—
Meet the Middle East
Collaborative

Juneteenth

Quaker Parenting

TUBING!

Minutes

Western Quarterly Meeting

will gather virtually on 18 July 2021.

10:15-11:00 Joint Multigenerational Community

Meeting for Worship

11:00-11:45 Lunch—offline or bring lunch for
online fellowship

11:45-1:15 Meet the Middle East Collaborative for a look
at our work in the region

1:30—Western Quarterly Meeting for Worship with
Attention to Business

[Meeting Link](#)

Sixth Query - Nurturing Our Community: Stewardship of Resources

For the Meeting:

How does our meeting accommodate ecological, economic and social justice in its uses of property and money?

Does our meeting engage its members in supporting the meeting's work, its ministry and the upkeep of its property?

Does our meeting encourage its members to support with their time, energy and finances the quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?

To what extent does our meeting rely on current members and attenders for financial support and to what extent on other sources?

For the Individual:

How do I demonstrate in my own decision making a concern for ecological, economic and social justice?

How do I simplify my needs, making choices that balance self-sufficiency and fair sharing of resources?

Do I balance my work-life and other activities with the time and energy needed for my spiritual growth and service?

Do I contribute to the work of Friends in my meeting, in the quarterly and yearly meetings and in the wider world of Friends?

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



341th Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

See the schedule and full descriptions at [PYM's website](#)

Keynote Presentations— Wednesday-Saturday July 28–31

Nikki Mosgrove on Micah 6:8 and Uprooting Injustice, Rooting Justice

Pam/Tommy Greenler—Drag Performance & Quakerism

Mai Spann-Wilson— All-ages Anti-Racism Work

Cherice Bock—Environmental Activism

Sa'ed Atshan— Quakerism and constructive Conflict

Uproot Injustice, Root Justice

YOUTH SESSIONS—IN PERSON SESSION FOR ALL AGES ON JULY 25!

As meetings and families begin to shift into more in-person activities, we decided to add an in-person Community Visit to Historic Fair Hill on Sunday, July 25 to kick off Annual Sessions and our Youth Programs theme for the coming year, *"Building the Quaker Community We Want to Be."* We look forward to seeing all ages there together for a morning of fellowship, worship, and service.

PROGRAMS FOR PRE-K TO 5TH GRADE—MIDDLE SCHOOL —HIGH SCHOOL

JULY 6 High School program with Mai Spann-Wilson

This year, we are so excited to work with Mai Spann-Wilson, who will lead Young Friends in a multi-part workshop on Social Justice. Part one is for adults who are family or mentors to Young Friends — [sign up to do the July 6 workshop with Mai](#), and then join Young Friends for the multigenerational session on Saturday, July 31!

More information and Register online at [Youth Sessions Page](#)

Joint Concord/Western Quarterly Meeting Virtual on Zoom - July 18, 2021

8:30-10:00am Concord Quarterly Meeting for Worship with attention to Business

10 - 10:15am Break

10:15 - 11am Joint Multigenerational Community Worship with Faith & Play Story

11 - 11:45am Lunch Break (eat offline or eat while sharing fellowship on screen)

11:45-1:15pm Middle East Program with the PYM Middle East Collaborative

1:30—3:00PM WESTERN QUARTER Meeting for Worship with attention to Business



**A Look at the
Middle East with
the PYM
Middle East
Collaborative**

Participants will include:

Dr. Sandy Rea, Central Philadelphia MM, clerk of MEC, experience in Ramallah and Lebanon

Georgette Hamaty, Abington MM, Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture

Jonathan Evans, Westtown MM, formerly with FCNL & Catholic Relief Services in Jerusalem

Joan Broadfield, Chester MM, Compassionate Listening Project Tour in Palestine/Israel, & Christian-Jewish Allies

Deb Wood, Westtown MM, Christian Peacemaker Teams & Compassionate Listening Project Tours in Palestine/Israel, and Christian-Jewish Allies

Tony Menassah, Central Philadelphia MM & Brummana Friends, Lebanon

You can also email Deb Wood at coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org or

Bianca Santini, Concord Quarter Coordinator, at concordquarter@pym.org

Event Websites: <http://westernquarterquakers.org/event/joint-quarterly-meeting/>
<https://concordquarter.org/nextqm-pastqm/2021/joint-concord-western-qm-mec>

Middle East Collaborative of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Summary of July 2019 to May 2021 for Quaker Life Council

The Middle East Collaborative of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (MEC) is composed of members and attenders at various PYM monthly meetings and a Friend from Houston, all of whom share an interest in the Middle East region. We wish to educate PYM Friends about the region and current issues and make suggestions for individuals' actions to support peace with justice and equality in the region. We meet on the first Sunday of every other month: January, March, May, July, September, November. Additionally, we have typically presented a workshop or two at PYM Annual Sessions. While our meetings have been virtual [Zoom] since May 2020, our consideration of issues relevant to the Middle East region has not waned. Friends on our committee carry out their own witness and help us make direct connections to a number of organizations:

- [Christian-Jewish Allies](#) for a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine of Philadelphia
- [Mennonite Central Committee](#)
- [Jewish Voice for Peace](#)
- [Friends Committee on National Legislation](#)
- United Nations and [UNRWA](#)
- [Luke 10](#)
- [AFSC and their campaigns in support of justice in Palestine](#)
- [Quaker Palestine Israel Network](#)
- [Ramallah Friends Meeting](#) and school.
- [Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture](#) in Philadelphia

Recent minutes of our meetings have listed resources for Friends through which they may investigate deeper analyses of topics discussed at that meeting. (We hope to get these resources posted at the [MEC page](#) on the PYM website.) At our most recent meeting we listed four foci for 2021:

- Further support intersectionality efforts connecting Palestinian rights issues to Black Lives Matter movement
- Familiarize and clarify how we may support Boycott Divestment and Sanctions
- Further connect [Why Palestine Matters](#) curriculum to a wider audience of PYM Friends
- Connect to FCNL and legislative priorities for new congress

Since December 2020, MEC met in January, March, and May. Discussions included:

- Christian Zionism
- Weaponizing Anti-Semitism with focus on the new book by our virtual member and Texas Friend Alex McDonald, [When They Speak Israel](#).
- Brummana High School – The Quaker school in Lebanon and the severe challenges it faces as Lebanon deals with governmental, economic, and political crises.
- Continued reports from our liaisons to Christian-Jewish Allies group in Philadelphia as Why Palestine Matters curriculum is presented to another faith community. Stay tuned... Friends of PYM may be offered this course.
- How the Biden administration might move in relation to the “nuclear deal” / JCPOA from which Mr. Trump pulled US support in 2018.
- Updates on Iraq after the US shelling in early March of alleged ISIS sites near Erbil. Two MEC members worked in Erbil for four years and remain in close touch with former Iraqi and international colleagues there.

MEC presented two virtual workshops for the PYM Runway to Annual Sessions 2021. On May 13, 2021 members Tony Manasseh and Leila Barclay, both Lebanese Quakers who grew up in Lebanon, presented *The Middle East Conflict As a Global Issue of Injustice*.

On Thursday evening June 17, 2021. We presented the short film, *My Neighborhood*, to begin our session *Wrestling with Israel – Palestine: Equality, Rights, Justice, and the Future*.

In the Light, Sandy Rea, Clerk Middle East Collaborative of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Celebrating Juneteenth Growing Up—from PYM News June 17, 2021

Dr. tonya thames taylor is a professor of history at West Chester University and a member of Fallowfield Monthly Meeting. tonya brings us her memories of growing up with Juneteenth as a big, community-wide celebration. She describes the power and significance of celebrating this holiday in Biloxi, Mississippi:

I always say, 'I was born and came of age in the coastal city of Gulfport, Mississippi.' I enjoyed celebrating Juneteenth in the neighboring city of Biloxi.

I thought that everybody celebrated Mardi Gras and Juneteenth because that is what I grew up with. Gulfport is close to New Orleans (so) that's why we celebrated Mardi Gras. New Orleans is known for its spontaneous celebrations; on a nice day, it is not uncommon to see people having a barbecue in the streets or start a [second line](#) that is full of music.

We were influenced by French culture but I was also surrounded by traditional American culture.

The celebration of Juneteenth, which was founded in history, was always a part of my life...I grew up knowing what that day was. In fact, when I was in school if you asked any of my classmates, we knew...“black people got their freedom with Juneteenth.”

This was the day that: we learned that black people stopped being forced to work, (and) they told us what slavery was (forced labor). But there were celebrations with all-day events. They would be held...at the largest school, in a stadium, like it was a Super Bowl event. During the...celebrations, they didn't focus on slavery. They talked about the contributions that black people made. They shared stories about how black people built America.

Juneteenth influenced who I am as a person. I've always felt that America was my country, (and) that my ancestors built this country, because of my knowledge of Juneteenth.

My most memorable Juneteenth event was learning about the [Black jockeys at the Kentucky Derby](#). Black jockeys were the first people who won the Kentucky Derby! It wasn't until segregation happened that black people stopped participating in the Derby.

As a kid, imagine realizing that Derby Day was initially grounded in the Black tradition...not only that the black people were jockeys, but they also kept the horses and...were a part of that culture. We were celebrating our genius by recognizing our contributions. Maybe they didn't have enough money to own a horse, but they had the command of a horse. I grew up learning about horsepower and knowing that I was a part of a group of people who could harness the power of horses to win or race. That gave me a sense of pride and confidence in my abilities as a person.

When I came into the universe outside of this ecosystem, I knew I carried the beautiful weight of it. I was supposed to contribute so those coming behind me could benefit. Every child needs a Juneteenth.

The beautiful reality about Juneteenth is that we didn't ask for permission to have it. I've been celebrating Juneteenth every year since I can remember. I don't know life without it. So America is just catching up to it. And that includes Black Americans, particularly those who did not grow up Southern (and those whose) families forgot the Juneteenth tradition.



Tonya with her dogs, Autumn and Raisin

Some Resources on Juneteenth

[What Is Juneteenth?](#)

[PYM Peace and Social Justice](#)

[PYM AntiRacism Collaborative](#)

[Honor Emancipation by Celebrating Juneteenth](#) by Emily Blanck, a member of Mickleton Meeting

[DEI Faculty Research Spotlight: Remembering Emancipation, Juneteenth as America's Emancipation Holiday](#)

[Juneteenth Resources](#), National Constitution Center

[14 Children's Books celebrating Juneteenth](#)

A Conversation from the [Quaker Parenting Initiative](#) - Answering that of God

How do you respond to that of God in your child? A question that was not asked of me as a parent when my children were growing up. I wonder if it should have been asked especially if I was to follow Fox's suggestion that I "answer that of God in every" person? The question assumes that I was to see or feel that of God in my child in some way so that I could respond. Or maybe I was to carry a belief in the goodness of the child and it is that belief in their goodness that I could have responded to.

Then I have to ask myself, is it Pollyannaish to look for goodness in a misbehaving child?

A group of psychiatrists are answering that question for themselves. They are working with at risk young people. They have taken the position that these young people want to do well but don't have the knowledge and/or skills for doing so. These psychiatrists have developed a system for working with at risk young people based on their belief in the young people's desire to do well that is proving strong in producing change. It is reassuring to find scientific evidence that supports my faith and its beliefs.

However, I know my role does not stop with the belief in my children wanting to do well. The question is how can I help them do so? The psychiatrists have developed a system for helping young people live "well" or more appropriately. I wonder if further seeking out their work will not be helpful to parents who are living with and guiding their children whom they want to believe are basically wanting to be good?

I'll let you know. --- see the website for additional reflections on this experience - <https://quakerparenting.org/answering-that-of-god/>

Save the date for—TUBING DOWN THE BRANDYWINE!!

MaryEtta Clendenin invites Western and Concord Quarter Folks to her home on the Brandywine for tubing and lunch

AUGUST 8 12:30-4:30

Provided—tubes and hotdogs
You bring— shoes for the creek,
personal flotation devices for
children, lunch items for your-
self, sunscreen, and cheer!



DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Support Committee of Western Quarterly
Meeting held on 13 June 2021 via ZOOM 3:00pm

Note that the budget presented here is available by request contact Deb, coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org.

Clerk Bob Frye welcomed Shelley Hastings and Arianna Langford (N), David Elder (Kendal), Emma Parker Miller and Dick Logan (H), Karen Halstead (NG), Stan Glowiak (Centre), and Margaret Walton (LG), and Deb Wood, coordinator to the meeting.

We opened with a period of worship.

Updates from Monthly Meetings –

Fallowfield Meeting approved the recommendations from the ad hoc Aging Concerns. The meeting will gather in-person for worship in September.

Newark Meeting approved the recommendations and *Annemarie Carr* asked to join the Aging Concerns group. Newark meets in person at London Britain Meeting House except for the 2nd Sunday when they meet for business on zoom.

Kendal Meeting shared that about 6 years ago they sent queries on aging to the *Faith & Practice* Revision Committee. They will share those with the ad hoc group. They are also beginning to look forward to the 50th anniversary of the Kendal community. They meet fully on Zoom; the Kendal community is starting some hybrid programming.

London Grove Meeting meets outdoors twice a month, and is working to improve the experience of their hybrid meetings. London Grove approved the recommendations of the Aging Group. They have no additional volunteers for the group as of yet.

Hockessin is meeting in their meeting house for worship with a hybrid component. There will be a Zoom presentation by FCNL on June 27 on justice reform. Friends are welcome to join. Details are at the Western Quarter website.

Centre is worshipping in the meeting house and via Zoom. Centre will take up the Aging Concerns recommendations at their July meeting for business. They will fundraise for a program in Haiti they have worked with and will have an outdoor concert on August 14.

New Garden is not meeting at present. There was an in-meeting service for the life of June Pratt. Friends wondered what could be done to support New Garden. No specific actions came forward.

Kennett is having a picnic today celebrating new members.

Proposed Budget for 2021-2022 for review

The clerk noted that there were several meetings to create the proposed budget. The Finance Committee met with MM treasurers, and that group is comfortable with the budget. If there is acceptance by this group, it will come to Western Quarter's meeting for worship with attention to business in seventh month.

Ariana noted that this is strictly an operating budget. There is nothing in this budget with regard to historic meetings, the educational or Woolman funds or grants.

The following was lifted up in review of the budget:

There is less PYM covenant due to an expected lower contribution from one of our Monthly Meetings.

Programming expenses are the same.

The budget reflects an increase for phone and internet, and postage due to increased fees.

The Quarter received about \$418 for Fallowfield Friends Orthodox Burial Ground to offset expenses from the restricted account for that purpose. We were reminded that Fallowfield maintains two other burial grounds, and a 3rd was too much for them, thus Western Quarter agreed to take up responsibility for the third.

Discussion:

Friends noted that our budget is an authorization to spend not a commitment to spend – not always predict whether a need will indeed be exist or be for the amount presented, but our budgets due speed up discussion of some expenditures.

There is an expected deficit, as has been the case for some time. The Quarter agreed to slowly work the reserves down. There was some sense that perhaps slowly spending the reserves down and consideration of a zero sum budgeting process might be taken up.

Friends approved the budget with gratitude to Arianna Langford and Wayne Thompson for their leadership, and treasurer Stan Glowiak's review and updating of yearly income and expense figures.

Coordinator Updates

Mailing List – We received a request to share our mailing list with Friends Home. Friends were not in unity with sharing the mailing list. Meetings and Friends are aware of Friends Home through Meeting contributions.

Youth Programs Job Search – Haverford and Swarthmore Colleges did respond positively to post the position. No interest has yet been received. Use of Indeed.com was recently suggested. The coordinator is also reaching out to inquire of any recent graduates of Wilmington Friends School and Westtown School.

Joint Quarter Planning – The coordinators have met a few times with representatives from Willistown MM and Newark MM, the Quarterly Meeting hosts. Worship will open with a Faith and Play story. The educational program will be a session with the Middle East Collaborative.

Tentative Schedule

8:30am-10:00am – Meetings for Business for both Quarters (or Western could do 2pm or 3pm per our custom)

10-10:15am – Break

10:15-11am – Intergenerational Community Worship with a story at the beginning (Lynne Piersol from CQ is seeking someone to open with a Faith and Play story)

11:00-11:45am – Lunch break – take a break from the screen or bring your lunch and chat.

11:45-1:15pm – Meet and Greet with the Middle East Collaborative of Yearly Meeting –Q&A about who we are and what we do - focus on Brummana Friends School in Lebanon and the situation in Palestine and Israel and their Contexts for Equality and Justice

Friends approved having our meeting for worship with attention to business at 1:30, after a short break after the presentation by the collaborative.

Nominating Committee – The clerk noted that Nominating Committee has worked diligently to find the next clerk and treasurer. Ought we to consider who we are and what we do; do we need to make changes to our committees? The need for someone to serve is most pressing for the treasurer position. Stan needs to be able to lay down some of the responsibilities and do some other things. He would like to finish as treasurer with the next Quarterly Meeting. Can the treasurer tasks be adjusted in some way to lighten the load? Much of the work is working with the bookkeepers. Suggestions included laying down being the pass through for covenants and rotating the role of Quarter treasurer through the Monthly Meetings, and seeking feedback from recommended bookkeepers to assess the workload.

Dick agreed to reach out to the treasurers at Hockessin.

Bob and Arianna agreed to speak to explore how the treasurer role might be restructured.

New/Upcoming Business

In the coming months, we need to explore a schedule for Quarterly Meeting hosting, and to consider formats, virtual, hybrid, and in-person, for Quarterly Meeting and Support Committee meetings to best meet the needs for worship, fellowship, programming, business, travel, and environmental impact.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Wood, Coordinator filling in for tonya thames taylor, Recording Clerk

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/>