



Western Quarterly News

of the Religious Society Of Friends

Western Quarterly Meeting Newsletter

Winter 2022

From the coordinator

I recently opened my winter 2021 copy of the Alternatives to Violence Project newsletter, *the Transformer*. One brief tip in its pages took me right back to feeling at home with my extended family over the holidays. Not because we got all testy with each and needed to do an AVP workshop to get through together, but because as we approach a third year of pandemic, we were profoundly grateful to be together. We enjoyed doing simple things together and doing our own things with someone else nearby. We were like pre-schoolers enjoying parallel play. There was a loving watchfulness we had for each other, as we relished being together.

Three Communication Wellness Laws

1. Listen as though what the other said were true, then imagine what life would be like if it were true. Listen with the ears, eyes, head and heart.
2. Anything you feed will grow. If you feed anger, it will grow; if you feed love, it will grow.
3. For every action, there is a reaction. Think about the reaction you desire.

Walking cheerfully with you,
Deb

In this Issue:

Tenth Query

Aging Concerns Spotlight

Some PYM area events

9th Query Responses

Minutes

Parents Morning Off-photos!

Western Quarterly Meeting— 16 January 2022.

9:30am Meeting for Worship

10:40am 100% Guaranteed—you will push up daisies: Planning ahead to help your family and the daisies
With Emily Temple Abels and Peter Temple

1:00pm—Western Quarterly Meeting for Worship with
Attention to Business

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92668234836>

Tenth Query-Witnessing in the World: Ministry of Outreach

For the Meeting:

How does our meeting communicate Friends' presence and principles to the wider community?

How does our meeting join with other faith communities in worship, in spiritual dialogue and in social action?

What are we doing to invite persons to attend our meetings for worship, to welcome them when they come, to listen sensitively to their needs and hesitations and to encourage their continued attendance?

For the Individual:

How do I share my spiritual life and experience with others?

Does my life as a Friend attract others to our religious society?

What opportunities have I taken to worship with people from other religious and cultural backgrounds and work with them on common concerns?

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

Aging Concerns spotlight—Celebrating Lives and Life Stories

From <http://www.quakeragingresources.org/>

One of the **amazing joys** of growing old is to reflect on life experiences. In fact, Sophocles in writing about old age, said, "One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been." As if to say, the rays of sun finally come together in striking brilliance as a sunset. So how can this brilliance be captured for ourselves as elders and to bless the Meeting?

First, create opportunities to celebrate individual lives. Perhaps it is a landmark birthday. An 85 year old in our Friends Meeting is still relishing the joy of her 80th birthday party. She said, "It was like going to my own Memorial Service, but I got to hear and enjoy it all." Another person slowed the pace of an eventful life work as a peace activist. A cast of characters from 44 years of her work around the world were asked to share memories and fill a scrapbook. The Meeting shared a potluck and sang the songs that accompanied the journey. . This celebration allowed all of us to reminisce about the marches, campaigns, joys, and sorrows of trying to make a difference in the world.

The second way to capture the brilliance of the sunset is through the telling of one's own story. There are many lists of interview questions and books that can help get the story telling juices flowing, but you simply need to sit down and put your thoughts to paper.



Everyone has a story! It is easy to think our own lives are not as significant as someone else's life story, but in reality there is goodness in each story. My mother's story is called 'Homemaker'. She had an amazing ability to make home in seemingly unorthodox settings, like a chicken house or a truck bed. She painted, put up curtains, raked the gravel and created a home for her family. We all appreciated her willingness to make the most of what she had and her story reminds us of that goodness.

Spiritual Communities can be especially helpful in this process of capturing life stories. Individual or group story gatherers such as Young Friends, are a gift to all. In our Meeting, the present clerk has spent previous years interviewing elders particularly on their role and experiences as Quakers. Subsequently, Times to Remember sessions are scheduled, where she asks the Meeting and all who know these elders to come, hear their stories, and share their memories. This is a delightful ongoing process.

Many find their life story contains a message that needs to be shared in a publication. This could be a journal or newsletter produced by your faith group; Quakers for example may want to publish a Pendle Hill pamphlet or an article in Friends Journal. Don't be bashful—put these life stories in the church, synagogue, mosque or Meeting library.

Perhaps those who especially need to have your story recorded in some way is your family. An easy way to capture a life story is with the photo album. A picture of swimming at the beach in Silver Bay can be used to tell the experience of going there over a life time, while breaking out some special incidents or meaningful memories. "The Baker Family and Silver Bay" can all be built around that one picture, or many such pictures!

A good life story is one of the most important gifts we can ever offer each other.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Tuition Aid for PYM Friends' Children in PYM Friends Schools

Monthly Meeting Members with children in Friends Schools seeking tuition aid from PYM are reminded to contact their Meeting clerk about applying in December or January. Details: www.pym.org/grants/tuition-aid/

[Travel and Witness Grant Deadline](#) - March 3, 2022

The **Travel and Witness Granting Group** makes grants to individuals to support:

1. International travel to further international understanding, peace, and other Friends concerns
2. Individual PYM Young Adult Friends in ministry, service, witness, and Quaker study
3. Transportation expenses of PYM Friends traveling in religious service

The group also makes grants to organizations for programs, events, and activities that support and build the community of PYM young adult Friends. Learn more here: www.pym.org/grants/travel-witness and reach out before you apply.

SOME EVENTS ACROSS PYM

An Evening Honoring Rev. Dr. King's Pilgrimage to Non-violence A Virtual Conversation with Dr. Kathy Gonzales on the Fellowship for Diversity in Negotiation, Mediation & Conflict Resolution January 12, 7:00-8:30pm

<https://www.pym.org/event/an-evening-honoring-rev-dr-kings-pilgrimage-to-non-violence/>

Rev. Dr. King transformed our nation's approach to conflict resolution. *How can we honor his legacy and encourage more trainers and peace-making practitioners from the most marginalized groups in society — including people of color, women, trans and gender nonconforming/nonbinary people and people from poor and working class backgrounds?*

Westtown Monthly Meeting is hosting Dr. Kathy Gonzales, Director of the Fellowship for Diversity in Negotiation, Mediation & Conflict Resolution, to share a new vision and pathway to increase diverse leadership in the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) field.

Westtown Meeting has committed to supporting this equity centered project. We invite other Friends to work together with us.

Register in advance for this program:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqd-GqrD8vEtw5eSKJBldm4dCCUiyuDcDJ>

Thread Gathering – Restorative Racial Justice: From the Personal to the Systemic February 5, 2022 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm on Zoom

Restorative Racial Justice: From the Personal to the Systemic

Our faith calls us to racial justice and to healing the wounds of racism. Every day we see the realities of inequality and injustice. More and more we experience in ourselves and others, responses of emotional overwhelm arise when encountering the realities of inequality and injustice. The ability to listen deeply, to allow feedback in with a minimum of defensive responses, to be mindful of one's thoughts, feelings and body in the face of emotional overwhelm – these are important and necessary skills to develop in order to open the pathways toward real repair of relationships, and the healing of racism at both the personal and systems. <https://www.pym.org/event/racial-justice/>

Clerking Skills! – A Governance & Stewardship Thread Gathering

February 19, 2022 @ 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Kathleen Karhnak-Glasby will lead a workshop in the morning on serving as clerk when you're not retired! That is, how to serve as clerk meaningfully and with joy when you have limited time to devote to it. Kathleen serves as Clerk of Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting and is a former Clerk of Central Philly Meeting.

Pat McBee will lead a workshop in the afternoon on the critical role of grounded and skillful participants in Quaker business process. How can we help our members develop deep skills of discernment? Pat McBee is also former Clerk of Central Philly Meeting and former Executive Director of Friends Center. <https://www.pym.org/event/clerking-skills/>

Grassroots Green Energy and Sustainability Development Webinar from North Branch Friends—January 27 and February 18 7:00-9:00pm

<https://www.pym.org/event/grassroots-green-energy-sustainability-development-webinar/>

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S EVENTS

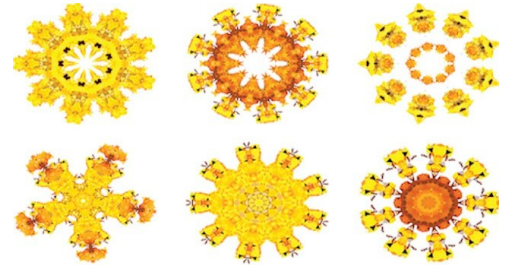
Giant Children's Meeting continues on 3rd Sundays in 2022!

Join Friends and Families from across the Yearly Meeting for a monthly religious education program. It's "giant" because everyone is invited! It's "children's meeting" because we're making a space to nurture the spiritual lives and Quaker identity of young people.

Each 30-45 minute program is for preschool and elementary-age children and their families. Each time will feature a theme and seasoned facilitators leading us through grounding, exploring, wondering, and creating. Our program will connect with the Youth Programs theme for this year, “**Building the Quaker Community We Want to Be**” and **HOPE!**

- January 16: New Beginnings
- February 20: Following Dreams
- March 20: Springing into Being
- April 17: An Easter Story for Friends
- May 15: Growing Feeling

<https://www.pym.org/event/giant-childrens-meeting-on-3rd-sundays/2022-01-16/>



Winter Family Overnight—at Camp Onas Feb. 26 2:00pm—Feb. 27 noon

[Children & Families Program staff](#), Mars Hohenstein and Crystal Hershey, will welcome everyone on Saturday afternoon. There will be time to gather and connect, as well as explore the camp through a scavenger hunt. After dinner prepared together, the evening will include a campfire and then we'll settle in with yoga and stories. After the kids go to bed there will be space for parents to spend time with each other. On Sunday we gather for breakfast, have “Giant Children’s Meeting” and finish up with plenty of time for families to get home and prepare for the coming week. Family Overnights are designed for children in K-5th Grade, and family members who are younger than 5 and older than 5th Grade are also **welcome** to attend!

<https://www.pym.org/event/winter-family-overnight-2022/>

Responses to the ninth query: Grounding for Transformed Lives: Equality and Justice

From London Grove—The first response was a remark from a Friend who compared the query to the way a poem often teaches by what its words do not say; rather like how intervals of silence between musical notes are a part of how a piece of music is heard. This Friend felt the query was not easy- to this individual, it seems the query holds an assumption of estrangement from the world around us. That feeling of disconnection can often turn us to the Spirit when seeking an answer. While the Spirit works through individuals, within a particular Meeting community, individuals can come to consensus- and by doing so can perhaps find their own way to justice. A second Friend acknowledged the strong challenges that the query presents, but felt that our tenet- *that of God in everyone*- is an antidote to that concern. This Friend is heartened by the fact that many members and attenders of the Meeting have engaged in our version of the 21 Day Challenge towards Racial Justice that we adapted to be a 21 Week Challenge. In addition, through periodically scheduled zoomed discussions concerning climate change, interested individuals have been exploring feasible actions for righting man-made imbalances of nature. Another Friend’s response was about how inequality manifests itself in forms besides racial division. As an example, a recently deceased member of our community encountered numerous challenges in his lifetime as a result of his hearing loss. We must hold in the Light the girls and women of Afghanistan who are facing a grave situation concerning their human rights as a result of the recent religious/political changes that their country has experienced. Health and age-related situations are other areas where inequality remains an issue. This Friend ended by challenging the Meeting as a whole to endeavor in raising its level of awareness and actions, not only within our Meeting community, but the larger geographic community in which we live. The final response came from a Friend who clearly remembers acts of segregation that were *the norm* until this Friend was in sixth grade. A former, local amusement venue, Lenape

Park, denied African Americans entry for years except for a token *once a month pool day*; but this was a sham, because inevitably when that day came there would be one excuse or another concocted that resulted in the families of color being told that the pool was **not** open that day. On the national stage, we are currently witnessing one state after another concoct unreasonable criteria for voter registration –a poorly-veiled effort to suppress the vote. This Friend concluded by reminding the Meeting that interested Friends could participate in assisting with local voter registration.

from New Garden

The 9th query was read on grounding for transformed lives-equality & justice.

Initially, our Meeting could think of no way that we benefit from established patterns of prejudice or economic convenience. As we try to self examine our attitudes & actions it becomes clear that we feel as we do because we have never encountered situations & attitudes that that are directed toward us! It is easy to sit back & self examine. As individuals we can express empathy for those who are victims of inequality & injustice, but do we possess attitudes so ingrained & deep seated that we do not recognize them? Do we object when we hear attitudes that we know are not right?

We try, as a meeting to be respectful of the earth & its people, but do we do enough? We must strive to do better & keep reminding ourselves to be ever cognizant & vigilant.

West Grove Monthly Meeting Query Answer for Third Quarter 2021

The Ninth Query on Equality and Justice was read. The uneven distribution wealth is the basis of our problems. Emphasis nowadays seems to be on one race instead of the human race.

Western Quarterly Meeting - 16 January, 2022

Hosted by London Grove Monthly Meeting

WILL BE A largely VIRTUAL GATHERING!

[LINK](#) TO ATTEND VIRTUALLY - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92668234836>

9:30-10:30 am Meeting for Worship



10:40-11:40 am Program -
It's 100% certain, you will
push up daisies: Plan
ahead for your, your family's,
and the daisies' comfort -

a session with Emily Temple Abels and Peter Temple, attorneys will share with us about the important paperwork

1:00-2:30 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business –
VIRTUAL ONLY

[LINK](#) TO ATTEND VIRTUALLY - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92668234836>

DRAFT MINUTES - Support Committee of Western Quarterly Meeting

13 December 2021 3:00pm via Zoom

Present: Bob Frye (LG), Margaret Walton (LG), Teal Rickerman (MC), Ariana Langford (N), Shelley Hastings (N), David Elder (KD), Nancy Pratt (NG), Mary Sproat (WG), Mark Myers (LG), Pownall Jones (NG), Stan Glowiak (C)

Regrets: tonya thames taylor (F), Emma Parker Miller (H), Edna Collins (LG), Kim Brosnan

Our assistant clerk opened the meeting calling us to worship together.

Updates from Monthly Meetings

Newark- is meeting at Newark Center for Creative Learning. We zoom on second Sunday for business. We finalized our charitable contributions today. We will be having a meeting holiday get together, and are planning a collection for St. John AME in Newark, it is one of the oldest African American churches in Newark and has had vandalism at their burial grounds.

West Grove - has decided to support a local food pantry or other similar service in its annual contributions.

Mill Creek - has a new heater and chimney caps, and completed many minor repairs. They are planning an open house in April and are trying hard to support the Delaware food bank.

New Garden - our annual collection for AFSC was very successful. We had a social and Christmas program.

Centre - in business meeting earlier today, Centre set Christmas eve worship at 4pm and with no music and to keep attendance within safe distancing guidelines. In budget discussions Centre established an ad hoc committee to explore options for more community based work.

Kendal - continues to worship by Zoom to include those in the health center and resident care, and may look into OWL technology. Memorial meetings have been a challenge with the sometimes quick turn around. Kendal is also working on how to support charities and have an ability to support unexpected charitable needs.

London Grove - will have a Christmas program in the morning next Sunday, and an evening program on zoom at 7pm featuring programs for children. They will join with the kindergarten for an outdoor holiday celebration to show support and desire for a connection to young families. With a growing comfort meeting in a hybrid format and masked in person focusing on eyes has led to greater learning, and one piece learned is that much Quaker jargon often makes no sense to newcomers.

Kennett - will have a holiday sing on Sunday the 19th at 3pm, and a Christmas Eve worship at 5pm. Friends are invited to both.

Property Working Group Preview of Report on Historic Properties

The working group is open to additional participants. Please contact Bob, Margaret or Deb if you'd like to participate.

In the first of the working groups meetings, we set two short term goals -- 1) creation of professional services fund to support some of the needs of the historical properties. The minute needs more clarification on mechanics of the funds and language that accurately reflects the goal of the fund, and 2) making a plan for each property one at a time, planning out per property what to do. There are three properties under the direct care of WQ and three properties under the direct care of monthly meetings. Western Quarter will support, partner, and coordinate with the Monthly Meetings with direct care for the other three properties.

The members of the working group are Dave Nuttall, Bob Frye, Margaret Walton, and Mark Myers of London Grove, Shelley Hastings and Ariana Langford of Newark, Dick Logan and Mark Parker Miller of Hockessin, Margaret Moore and Lars Farmer of Kennett, Mary Sproat and Kathy Kirk of West Grove, and Karen Halstead of New Garden.

Aging Concerns Working Group – Update

The group has worked on plans for programming at upcoming Quarterly Meetings. Several worked diligent-

ly with London Grove Meeting to plan for programming from two lawyers, a Friend and her father, on the variety of documents and decisions for all Friends to consider in preparation for the end of life to ease loved ones of potential burdens.

West Grove is host in April and is comfortable with the Aging Concerns Working Group working with Sarah Matas, administrator of Kendal's Health Services Department, to help provide a program on having the conversations with family about health care and end of life plans.

In July, the Aging Concerns Group is working with Friends Life Care to provide a program.

In January we also hope to share some hard copy and web resources the group has compiled, including a listing of Quaker attorneys who could assist with end of life documents.

We will also continue to have video interviews that tonya thames taylor is creating on these topics. Past ones have spurred deep conversation and reflection.

Many on the working group have spoken of stress and anger in families that can arise with significant health challenges or someone's passing, it is our hope that these programs will lessen that likelihood and provide tools and perspectives for handling these moments.

Action - Please share the program plans with your meetings, friends, and neighbors.

State of the Meeting Reports

PYM recently communicated with clerks of monthly and quarterly meetings with an invitation to submit state of the meeting reports in April. Several meetings do so and share their reports with the Quarter.

Should Western Quarter consider submitting something in April?

We could consolidate reports from monthly meetings, we could respond to queries from PYM, we could have a group write one as led on our own.

Newark has a party and then does the state of the meeting report. It may be a way to get input from Monthly Meeting folks who may or may not be attending quarter events.

We felt this worth pursuing in January.

Parents' Morning Off Report

We had 8 children, 6 from Concord Quarter and 2 from Western Quarter for the event. It was held at Westtown School. We had indoor and outdoor activities, and as parents picked up their children, all expressed their appreciation and wanted to know when the next event would be. The two quarter coordinators were greatly assisted by Joe Schiffer, child care and first day school assistant at West Chester MM. Deb and Ariana have arranged payment to Joe as directed in 10th month meeting for business.

We closed with a period of worship.



Outdoor fun from the Parents' Morning Off



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/>