



Western Quarterly News

of the Religious Society Of Friends

Western Quarterly Meeting Newsletter

Fall 2023

FROM THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

“This would be a great discussion in my meeting.”

This sentiment was one shared by all on the Historical Property Committee of Western Quarter as we discussed a session from *The Life Cycle of Meetings* series. The series includes ten presentations and discussions prepared and led by Emily Provance or Quaker Emily of Fifteenth Street Meeting, New York YM. The series pulls from research about faith communities and institutions, their longevity, ability to live their mission, and their vitality. Quaker Emily summarizes the series this way: **“All Quaker meetings—in fact, all faith communities—eventually reach the end of their life cycle. It does not happen all at once, and there are many different types of faithful responses to waning energy.”**

Watch one or more of the sessions on your own or with your meeting. Where do you think your meeting is in the life cycle? What brings vitality to your meeting and its ministries in the community?

What are you doing to prepare for the future you want or see for your meeting?

The session Historic Properties focused on was “Sharing, Repurposing, and Selling Buildings.” It helped us to affirm the process we would likely follow if Western Quarter explored repurposing properties under the Quarter’s care.

Here is the link to [Life Cycle of Meetings](https://quakeremily.wordpress.com/resources-for-quaker-meetings/end-of-life-for-meetings/), <https://quakeremily.wordpress.com/resources-for-quaker-meetings/end-of-life-for-meetings/>

Where in the life cycle do you think your own meeting might be?

Why do you think that?

How does it feel to name that?

In this Issue:
From Quaker Emily

8th Query

Sheila Sorkin’s
Memory Resources

Quarterly Meeting
and *Ubuntu*

Minutes, including
Query Responses

10th Month Quarter Meeting—15 October-Newark hosts at Friends Home in Kennett— 8th Query

Western Quarterly Meeting Schedule

21 January, 2024—Hockessin—12th Query

21 April, 2024—West Grove-3rd Query

21 July, 2024—Kennett-6th Query — Joint Quarter

19-20 October, 2024—Kendal-9th Query

***Support Committee typically meets 2nd Sunday in month prior to Western Quarterly Meeting**

****Historic Properties typically meets 3rd Sunday when there is not Western Quarterly Meeting**

8th Query—Grounding for Transformed Lives Integrity and Simplicity

For the Meeting:

- What is the interplay between simplicity and integrity in the life of our meeting?
- How does our meeting embody simplicity and integrity in its structures and practices?
- How has our meeting considered humanity's impact on the earth's ecological integrity and the ways in which violence and injustice exacerbate this impact?

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

For the Individual:

- *How do I strive to achieve harmony between my inner and outer commitments in my spiritual journey, my work, my family and my other responsibilities?*
- *Am I temperate in all things?*
- *Am I open to counsel regarding addictive behavior?*
- *Am I involved only with those organizations and activities whose purposes and methods complement my integrity?*
- *Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me?*
- *Am I mindful that judicial oaths imply a double standard of truth?*

*Living and Aging Well Resources
From Sheila Sorkin
Aging Support Coordinator
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting*



Some Area Resources on Memory Loss and Dementia

I compiled resources on Memory Loss and Dementia at the request of some Friends in PYM. I added these resources to the Quaker Aging Resources website— <https://www.quakeragingresources.org>.

I've connected with the Penn Memory Center to explore caregiving support for Friends. Please see the links and information about several programs available to Friends. Please complete the registration or applications found on the Penn Memory Center website from the links below. The listed programs are offered to those who are not current or previous patients, including Time Together, Weekly Smile, and their empowering caregiver series. ***In the caregiver series link, there are a number of videos from previous programs.***

<https://pennmemorycenter.org/programs-services/>

continued p. 4

Newark Monthly Meeting hosts

WESTERN QUARTERLY MEETING at

Friends Home 
in Kennett

147 W. STATE STREET
KENNETT SQUARE, PA

additional parking on street and at
municipal garage N. Union and E. Linden

Children's
Program
9:15-11:45

15 OCTOBER

8:45 Coffee and fellowship

*9:15-10:45 Connecting with the Global Quaker
Community: a Conversation with a Kenyan Friend
and an exploration of Ubuntu

*11:00-11:45 Meeting for worship

Noon - lunch provided by Newark Friends

*1:15 - Meeting for worship with attention to business

*Also available via Zoom

Ubuntu
materials from



Friends World Committee for Consultation
World Office

Resources from Aging Support—cont'd p. 2

Time Together & Weekly Smile

Time Together is a community-based program in which Philadelphia college students provide high quality, low-cost respite care to families supporting an older adult, including those with physical or cognitive impairments.

<https://pennmemorycenter.org/programs-services/timetgether/>

Participants are matched together based on shared characteristics, location and other factors. Students will be paid by the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) and families will pay UPenn for their services. No payments will be made directly between families and students.

Empowering Caregivers Workshop Series

Providing caregivers with access to area experts who will present on a variety of intensive topics from in-home activities to end of life care.

<https://pennmemorycenter.org/programs-services/empowering-caregivers-workshop-series/>

Please let me know if this information is helpful and used by any members of PYM. I'd like to share back to the Penn Memory Center that their services for non-patients have been used and valued.

Sincerely,

Sheila

Sheila Sorkin

Aging Support Coordinator
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

1515 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Office: 215.241.7068

Cell: 215.690.1179

Email: ssorkin@pym.org



On *Ubuntu* and the upcoming program at WQM

Newark Meeting was inspired by the materials prepared by Friends World Committee for Consultation to introduce the FWCC World Plenary Session hosted by Southern Africa Yearly Meeting in 2024. For more information on the plenary session, check out this link - <https://fwcc.world/wpm/>.

I have included below some of the materials from the FWCC website on *Ubuntu*, the theme selected by Southern Africa Yearly Meeting that they posted in August for World Quaker Day – 1 October 2023.

World Quaker Day will be an opportunity to *learn, reflect and act*, as we prepare to come together as a global family of Friends at the [World Plenary Meeting](#) in South Africa and online next year, themed *Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with Hope to God's Call to Cherish Creation and one-another*.

Learn

The word *ubuntu* emphasises shared humanity, deep connection, and care for creation and one-another. It is translated sometimes as 'I am because you are' or 'we are because you are'. It refers to the deeply held belief, morality and custom that eve-

ry person is worthy of being recognised, respected and heard, and that we as human beings are all interdependent. It is centrally important to the faith and practice of Quakers in Southern Africa. [Read more about Quakers and ubuntu.](#)

Show the above video in your Quaker Meeting or Friends Church, about what the word *ubuntu* means to Friends in Southern Africa. After watching it consider the below queries, through personal contemplation or together with others:

How would you express the concept of *ubuntu* in the language or culture you are most familiar with?

What would the effects be if our global Quaker community were to follow the precepts of *ubuntu* more closely, and how can we go about this?

How can churches and communities work for changes in the governments, economic and political structures to embrace the principle of *ubuntu*?

As the climate crisis accelerates, what could the application of the principles and practices of *ubuntu* mean for us?

From where does hope come?

Send your reflections to worldquakerday@fwcc.world

Pray

Living the spirit of ubuntu: Caring for creation and one-another. Image by Lynn Finnegan.

A prayer has been prepared by the worship group for the World Plenary Meeting, as follows:

Dear God

Even when we feel overwhelmed

By the fear of tomorrow

The uncertainty of this degenerating world

And the cruelty of human beings.

The refuge is in you, God.

Forgive our offenses,
Restore our soul,
Restore humanity.
We glorify your name
We preserve the love of our neighbors
We are because they are
We are because you are
We are because your spirit guides us
Amen

Act

Quaker bodies all around the world send nominees to the World Plenary Meeting. Doing this in a way in which participation is inclusive means subsidising nominees from the Global South by around 90%, with a further fund set aside for addressing the ‘digital divide’ between Friends in richer and less rich countries.

Could you or your Quaker group act on the spirit of *ubuntu* by sending a greeting and a donation for the World Plenary Meeting, to support the event to take place fairly? Send your greeting (50 words max) to comms@fwcc.world. and we’ll reply with some ways you can donate.

Do also ask whether your yearly meeting has nominated someone to take part in the [World Plenary Meeting](#) yet. If not, put your name forward. Friends with a letter of recommendation from their local or monthly meeting clerk, can also take part using [Open Places](#).



Western Quarterly Meeting Minutes

2023-07-17 1:15 pm 7th month Quarterly
Meeting

Kennett Meetinghouse and via Zoom

Opening Worship - 17 Friends were present in person and online from London Grove, Kennett, Newark, New Garden, West Grove, Centre, and Fallowfield Monthly Meetings, and Western and Concord Quarter.

Query Responses - 5th Query Nurturing Our Community; Religious Education in the Home and Meeting

Mill Creek - How does our meeting prepare our members, attenders and children for worship, for the conduct of its business and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends?

We have worship sharing the first day of the month which includes reading the *Faith and Practice*. We include everyone present and we don't indoctrinate them. We discuss passages and how we can apply them. At every meeting we start worship in the Sphere of Silent preparation, at business meeting we consider the query.

What opportunities do we provide for all in the meeting to learn about Friends' history, practices and testimonies, the Judeo-Christian tradition, the life and teachings of Jesus, and other religious traditions?

We have bibles and other Friends reading materials. We share messages of various faiths that align with Friends values. We read *Faith and Practice* monthly. We attended as a meeting the 350th anniversary of the first Quaker meeting for worship in Delaware and learned more of George Fox.

How does our meeting's religious education program provide experiential learning that enhances the sense of belonging to our worshipping community?

Everyone is welcome to share or meditate. Everyone is engaged when we have worship sharing.

London Grove - Query 5 Nurturing Our Community: Religious Education at Home and in Meeting

A Friend enumerated many ways our Meeting is doing a good job in this area. We are making a heartfelt effort to reach out into the larger community and enhance our commitment to Quakerism in the LGMM community. Peace and Social Justice tackles difficult and relevant issues. The monthly bible study led by Donald La Branche is just amazing and we have an active children's First Day School program. Our relationship with Allen AME church is growing and fosters optimism about bridging the gap across racial barriers. We actively pursue issues of Climate Change in a small group.

Another friend noted we are doing well offering spiritual nurture but wondered what else new attenders would like to know about Quakerism. What would help parents with their own spiritual growth and development and what else do they desire for their children.

News from Meetings -

Fallowfield, tonya thames taylor expressed appreciation for the support from Friends in Western Quarter for People's Hall, a building for the people of Ercildown but also very connected to the area's Quaker community. tonya shared this video, [Where Liberty Thrives: People's Hall in Pennsylvania June 2023](#)

People's Hall is the story of how Quakers found a way through a difficulty they faced internally and made a space to meet with others from other religious faiths. The building has been used by many groups over the years. Because the building is the "people's building," it can not survive on public grants, only private funds. To continue to have it as an open space for office work, rentals, public programs, it will need private support and fees for its use. The Quaker community "showed up and showed out" at the 23 June event; we need volunteers for various projects to support People's Hall.

Centre - The annual concert in the burial ground will be Saturday 19 August from 6-8pm. You are welcome to bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets. Jake and Jinks will again provide the

music.

Newark - will hold an art show at London Britain Meetinghouse on August 13 from 1-5pm in honor of Ruth Thompson's 104th birthday. Artists please bring what you need to display your work.

New West Grove Meetinghouse - did get a termite treatment but the building needs to be left alone for 6 months. When we are able to re-enter we will check the building for further repair needs.

Friends Home Report - Christine McDonald prepared the report. Debby Brumbaugh gave the report. *See the WQ website or contact the coordinator for the report.*

Friends expressed their appreciation for the work of Christine, the staff at Friends Home, and the board.

Questions: How many are on the board?

There are 12, about half Quaker, more women than men, one person of color. Increasing board diversity is a goal; three are retiring from the board in the coming year. We are seeking replacements.

What are the demographics of the residents?

There are more women than men and the majority are white. There is broad religious diversity.

Budget - *Contact the coordinator for the reports.*

Bob Frye shared a summary of the budget. Support Committee approved the budget in June. For the first time in some years we have finalized and approved a budget before the fiscal year started!

Our process is to form a small committee to draft budget of the treasurer, assistant treasurer, and clerk. That draft we presented to MM treasurers in May. After their approval the budget came to Support Committee in June. We are projecting a deficit of \$2,800; Column I is the budget and G is how we finished 2023. The budget is in line with 2023. The difference primarily is the technology grant from PYM and New Garden MM. Anyone who wants a full budget can get it from Bob Frye. Operating expenses will stay the same primarily because bookkeeping will move in house. We will dip into the reserves again this year at about the same amount.

Questions: Thanks! It was very clear!

Financial Report - 4th quarter 2022 - Ariana Langford

PRELIMINARY YEAR END REPORT FY2023
(July 2022 – June 30, 2023)

Highlights:

1. This report is preliminary and has not been audited.
2. Also the first report since we lost our bookkeeping service.
3. William Jackson Educational Fund Balance - \$8,647.60
4. \$1500 in grants issued this fiscal year.
5. John Woolman Traveling Minister's Fund Balance - \$3,169.16.
6. No grants issued this fiscal year.
7. Technology Grant of \$1,000 received from PYM. New Garden donated an additional \$200 to be added to this fund. This was not spent this fiscal year which contributes to why there is more income than expected.
8. Additional Comments – Treasurer Transition
9. Training on Quickbooks started with Deb and Karen, to be continued
10. Setting up switch at Citadel

Discussion: Thanks!!

Bob will start auditing in 8th month. We are blessed to have people in the wings when someone jumps off the trampoline!! Thank you Ariana, for your continued and repeated help, so eat well and stay well!

Friends Home Elevator Contribution – Margaret shared that the Support Committee raised the idea of a contribution to support the construction of the new elevator at Friends Home, a \$1000 over two years.

We have a historic and ongoing connection to Friends Home.

WQ made a donation for PPE during COVID; the current elevator is not safe: a resident needing transport to hospital has to come off the gurney

to use the current elevator.

The suggested amounts seem reasonable given WQ's finances.

Friends approved \$500 this year with \$500 from next year; this year's donation coming from the reserves.

It would be great to have QM or some event there. Local Quakers need to know what we started. It will also help put thinking of end of life needs sooner for some if we have connections there.

The elevator will cost about \$850,000 and you can donate on phones; 50% raised through institutions, foundations, and deep pockets. Over \$80,000 has been so far.

The following thank you Minute for Mill Creek was approved:

Western Quarter minutes our deep appreciation to members of Mill Creek Monthly Meeting for hosting the Quarterly Meeting on 16 April, 2023. The enticement of the delicious buffet breakfast with at least 6 kinds of tarts that Mill Creek provided ensured a good, prompt turnout of over two dozen people, including seven children. We all benefited and enjoyed the tai chi program led by J. Roy Cannon and Tom Biso outdoors which, in turn, provided a smooth transition for settling into meeting for worship.

Thank you minutes to Kennett and London Grove. Margaret and Deb will work on these.

London Grove is so incredibly grateful for Deb Wood and Kennett Meeting for standing in the breach and sharing the facility, helping with dishwashing and tech from Kennett. Our ceiling was just fixed and we will return to normal soon. Friends also expressed their appreciation for both children's programs, the one led by Alix Valery and Elizabeth Croce from Yearly Meeting Middle School Programs, and by Kim Brosnan-Myers from London Grove.

Coordinator's Report -

Updates from Historic Properties - Life Cycle series <https://quakeremily.wordpress.com/>

[resources-for-quaker-meetings/end-of-life-for-meetings/consultations/](#)

The Historic Properties Committee gave itself homework. We will view the slides and presentation video of [Sharing, Repurposing, and Selling buildings](#) in anticipation of having a discussion on these topics with the quarter.

The committee also has received reports on the burial grounds. The previous Historic Property report focused on meetinghouses so we are hoping to gather a more complete picture of the status of the [historic] properties. Annual Sessions - I will be at most of the business sessions. Sign up to go as well!

[Harriet Tubman Museum](#), Cambridge MD Field trip tentatively scheduled for Sept. 30. A friend shared that weekend is a major bicycle race weekend so the coordinator will find a new date. Friends asked for an interest form, and possible deposit process.

Archiving for the past three years is underway. I am about two thirds of the way through minutes. According to Friends Historical Library, Western Quarter has not sent newsletters since 1985. So that will be the next large archiving project.

Deb will be away on vacation the beginning of August.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Wood, co-ordinator



To read past Minutes of Western Quarter, and the Minutes from the WQM Support Committee Meetings, please visit our Business Resources page online: <http://westernquarterquakers.org/business-meeting-info/>