



Western Quarterly News

of the Religious Society Of Friends

Western Quarterly Meeting Newsletter

Summer 2024

Minutes of Concern from Monthly Meetings

Two of Western Quarter's monthly meetings have shared minutes of concern. The meetings want Friends to know of these minutes, and if led at the upcoming meeting for worship with attention to business to approve them. These minutes are shared here with some additional information from Quaker organizations to provide some context of Friends work in these areas. Both Friends Committee on National Legislation and the American Friends Service Committee have worked on Middle East and Native American issues for many decades. Friends work, especially on Native American advocacy has taken some dramatic turns. At one point Friends advocated the placement of Indians in boarding schools. The goal of the schools was to "save the man by killing the Indian." Today many Friends and meetings are engaging in work to acknowledge and make reparations for the harms and generational trauma caused by the Indian Boarding Schools, Quaker ones included.

The first minute shared is from London Grove Monthly Meeting. It's focus is Gaza. It was first taken to London Grove's meeting for worship with attention to business in April, 2024. The second minute is from Newark Monthly Meeting. The focus of this minute is the Rancheria Nisenan Tribe and the California Heritage: Indigenous Research Program. Both minutes of concern can be found on page 4.

Timeline of Quaker Involvement in the Middle East—From the [Middle East Collaborative](#) of PYM

Quakers have had a deep concern for the peoples of the Middle East and a multifaceted engagement with them from the foundation of Friends Girls School in 1869 [in Ramallah] until the present. This concern has been shaped and sustained by the missionary work of evangelical Friends among the Palestinian Arabs and by the relief work carried out by the American Friends Service Committee and European Quakers during the Nazi era to help rescue European Jewry. These experiences with peoples who tragically became antagonists have drawn Friends into work to ameliorate and resolve the now century-old Arab-Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

A video of **Pursuing a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine**, a [Pendle Hill lecture by Steve Chase](#)—is available on Pendle Hill's YouTube channel. Steve is a member of Friends Meeting of Washington and the Quaker Palestine Israel Network.

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6th Query
7th Month QM
Speaker, Program
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ria Nisenan Tribe
339 Manumissions
Events
Minutes, including
Query Responses

7th Month Quarterly Meeting—21 July, 2024
Hosted by Kennett and West Chester Monthly Meetings
At West Chester Friends Meeting—6th Query

Western Quarterly Meeting Schedule

SATURDAY 19 October, 2024—Kendal-9th Query

19 January, 2025—Fallowfield, 10th 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**

6th 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.

An Introduction to the Quarterly Meeting Speaker and Program



Bob Fest brings over 25 years of experience in teaching high school environmental science and biology to diverse student populations. He currently serves on the faculty of George School, a Quaker boarding and day high school in Bucks County, PA. There, he leads the curriculum for the International Baccalaureate Environmental Systems & Societies program, along with teaching Field Studies, Environmental Justice, and Intensive Biology. He holds a Master of Science in Biology from the University of Nebraska and actively leads international field study programs for high school students, taking them to destinations like Uganda, Tanzania, Belize, the Brazilian Amazon, and Botswana. At George School, his commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility is demonstrated through his active participation on the Environmental Stewardship Oversight Committee and the Service-Learning Oversight Committee. He is also the current Loucks Distinguished Chairholder and Innovation Grant Awardee.

"Planting Seeds of Hope: How to Talk to Kids about Climate Change"

Most young people today are already aware that we are in the midst of a climate crisis. Climate change is taught in many schools, and in some states it is mandated as part of the K-12 curriculum. Even where climate change is not taught in schools, our children hear about it in the news and on social media. High School Science teacher Bob Fest will present on how to talk with children about climate change so that they feel heard and empowered to act to protect the planet they will inherit.

West Chester Friends Meeting and Kennett Friends Meeting host Western and Concord Quarters 21 July, 2024

8:30am - Welcome and sign in

9:00am Business Meetings*

[WQ Zoom link](#) - WQ business

10:30am - All Ages Worship

[WCMM Zoom](#) - worship and program

11:15am - Programs*

*Planting Seeds of Hope: How to
Talk to Kids about Climate Change
with Bob Fest*

AND

for Children and Youth
*Celebrating and Tending to
Earthcare*

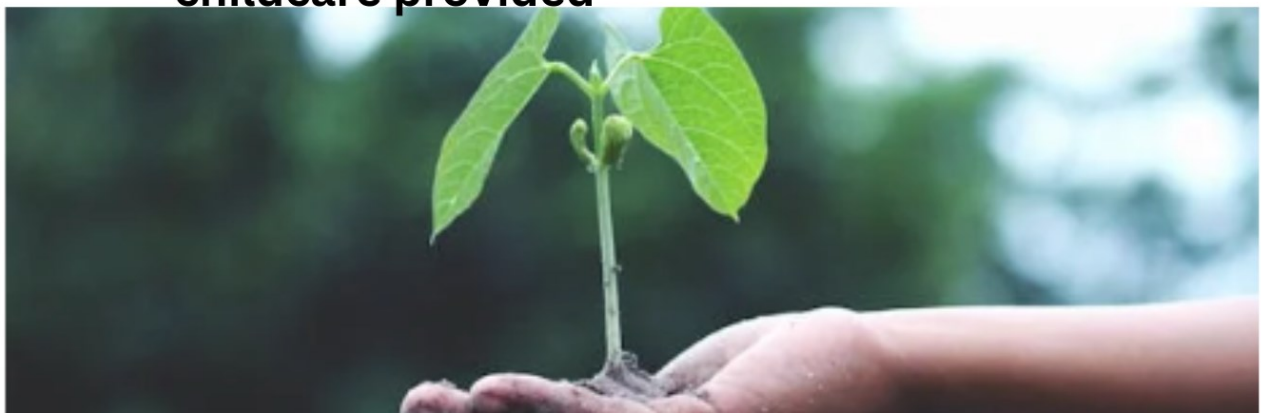
12:30pm - lunch off the grill

***childcare provided**



425 N. High St, West
Chester

Parking on N. Walnut St.
East Biddle St.
Meeting lots on N. High
and East Marshall St.



A Minute Concerning the Conflict in Gaza and the Broader Middle East

We mourn for all the lives lost on all sides in this conflict and lament with anyone who is suffering.

As Quakers who seek alternatives to violence, we pray that a lasting ceasefire will be realized along with the return of all hostages and other innocents to their homes and families.

We urge all sides in the conflict to make safe the conditions for the protection of civilians and for humanitarian aid to be delivered to them to ease their suffering.

As Quakers, we believe no matter the obstacles set against a solution to intractable problems, that “Way will open.”

Therefore we implore all sides in this conflict to lay aside their hurt and anger and to seek a “Way” for both Israelis and Palestinians to live with each other, providing each other with clear borders, with political independence, with religious liberty, with economic opportunity, to live as human beings with dignity and rights.

Approved 5/5/2024 London Grove Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Minute in Support of CHIRP Approved by Newark Friends Meeting on 12 May 2024

Newark Friends Meeting wishes to acknowledge the deep harms done to indigenous peoples of North America by those of European descent, and especially by the United States Federal Government. We acknowledge that the Religious Society of Friends also participated in practices of oppression of tribal culture, and as Quakers, we have a responsibility to redress inequities. We minute our support of the Rancheria Nisenan Tribe in their efforts to be re-recognized as a tribe by the US government and to regain a portion of their native land. It is appalling that they are not recognized as a tribe because they have no land when their land was illegally taken away from them in the past. Newark Friends wholeheartedly support their efforts to reclaim their identity and their name. Individual members and attenders have already provided financial support to the California Heritage: Indigenous Research Program (CHIRP), the nonprofit raising the funds for the purchase of land currently known as Sierra Friends Center. We also minute our financial support with a donation of \$250.00.

Background – The Appeal Received from Pacific Yearly Meeting

The board of the Sierra Friends Center (formally, College Park Friends Educational Association, CPFEA) has entered into a purchase agreement with the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe through the Tribally-led California nonprofit, California Heritage: Indigenous Research Program (CHIRP). The Tribe has not had land since 1964 when the Federal Government illegally terminated the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe and sold their reservation at auction. This is the Tribe’s best opportunity to re establish a tribal homeland and may support their efforts toward Federal re-recognition.

The land that Sierra Friends Center has operated from is the site of an ancestral Nisenan village called Yulića. These 232 acres, as well as the surrounding land known as “Nevada City, California”, were taken from Indigenous peoples during the Gold Rush and sold to settlers who were colonizing the area. A group of Quakers purchased the land in the 1960s for educational programs. The Sierra Friends Center nonprofit, originally under the care of College Park Quarterly Meeting, was created to operate the school programs and manage the property. The Center ran the John Woolman boarding school, which operated from 1963-2001, followed by the Woolman Semester school, which operated from 2004-2016. The Center also operated outdoor education programs as well as a summer camp rooted in Quaker faith and practice.

The Sierra Friends Center board’s journey is chronicled in detail on the Woolman at Sierra Friends Center website. The Tribe now has a time-limited opportunity to purchase the property. The agreed- upon price includes the purchase price, government-mandated improvements, and an operating endowment. The overall fundraising goal is \$2.4 million; the first phase of this effort, to raise \$1.5 million, closes on April 4, 2024. CHIRP launched a GoFundMe campaign at the end of January, which has already raised \$762,000 with almost 1000 individual donors, including Quakers! As Quakers, we believe that supporting this process both spiritually and financially is a living example of our Stewardship testimony and our legacy as activists. It is our faith in action. It creates healing from a moment of loss. It is restorative and it is ethical. It feels important to do all we can to support the Tribe.

At our Second Month Meeting for Worship for the Purpose of Business, the Santa Cruz Friends Meeting passed a minute of support. By encouraging Friends to donate and specifically to identify themselves as Quakers along with their Meeting affiliation, we are broadcasting our support as a faith community. Our Meeting is inviting Meetings across the country to spiritually and financially support this effort. The minute we passed reads as follows:

Santa Cruz Friends Meeting Minute #2 2-11-24: Santa Cruz Friends Meeting supports a \$500 donation from the Donations Fund to the California Heritage: Indigenous Research Program (CHIRP), the nonprofit raising funds to purchase the Sierra Friends Center to return the land to the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe. [To date, Santa Cruz Friends Meeting and members and attenders have donated \$2000.] SCFM also encourages individuals to make donations "on behalf of the Santa Cruz Friends Meeting". The clerks and Hans Brinker and Nancy Wood will contact other Meetings and publications with this information.

We invite your Meeting to consider this appeal, create a minute of support, make a donation that reflects the significance of this moment, and encourage your members and attenders to donate on behalf of your Meeting as well. Imagine what we can do when we do it in community!

PS: Should your Meeting pass a minute of support, or make a donation from your Donations Fund, please reply to Hans or Nancy, or let the Indigenous Concerns Subcommittee of Pacific Yearly Meeting's Ministry Committee know. The committee clerk's email is: indigenousconcernsclerk@pacifyearlymeeting.org

From Friends Peace Teams Towards Right Relationship with Native Peoples: A Call for Researchers on Quaker Indian Boarding Schools Monday, July 15, 7:30-9pm ET; 6:30-8pm CT; 5:30-7pm MT; 4:30-6pm PT



Quaker Superintendent Asa C. Tuttle, Quaker teachers, and Native students at Ottawa Modoc School in Indian Territory, 1877. Courtesy of Haverford College's Quaker Collections.

During the 19th century, almost all Christian denominations collaborated with the U.S. government's policy of forced assimilation by operating "Indian boarding schools." Now the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) and the U.S. Department of the Interior are calling on churches to provide information about their participation in this program of cultural genocide. How are Quakers responding to this call?

The Quaker Indigenous Boarding Schools Research Network (QIBS) is a group of volunteer researchers who are gathering information about Quaker-operated and Quaker-influenced boarding schools. Their research will be made available to Native American tribes and family members, DoI investigators, and the public. In this webinar, QIBS researchers will share some of their findings and discuss their

research process. **They will invite interested researchers to join them in this work of truth-telling, accountability, and collaboration.**

For background information, watch [this slide presentation](#).

This is a virtual presentation. Please register to receive the zoom link.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative has a list of [resources on Native American \(Indian\) Boarding Schools](#) at its website. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, many of its quarterly and monthly meetings, and individual Friends supported the Indian Boarding Schools in a variety of ways. Some worked for them, some provided financial and capital resources, some provided vacation housing, often in exchange for unpaid labor, for students from Carlisle Indian Boarding School.

339 Manumissions and Beyond Project

By Deb Wood, coordinator

Recently I attended a virtual program on the 339 Manumissions and Beyond Project. Friends from southeast PA and from across the country gathered to learn more truth about manumission, the connection of PYM Quakers to slavery, and the work of the 339 Manumissions and Beyond Project to uncover the stories of the 339 known enslaved Africans of Friends in PYM. One of those people, Jack, was enslaved by my ancestor Thomas Temple of Pennsbury Township. His manumission record is in records at Friends Historical Library. Check out 339 Manumissions and Beyond's website to find out more about their work. <https://friendsfiduciary.org/339-manumissions-beyond-project/> and see Quaker manumission records at Friends Historical Library at <https://blackgenealogy.domains.swarthmore.edu/manumissions/>



Western Quarterly Meeting Minutes Minutes 21 April 2024 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at West Grove Monthly Meeting

We opened with a period of worship during which Friends were encouraged to share meeting responses to the 3rd Query:

New Garden - The Third Query was read on Spiritual Nurture.

We recognize that the light within each of us is the Divine power within each of us. This power that lies within cannot be overcome by the darkness of fear, or hatred, or a lust for money. We simply cannot be "forced" to worship from the outside. Only the power within us can move or motivate us to it. Jesus no longer walks & talks on this earth but his messages remain within each of us if only we will sit quietly & listen. It is up to each of us!

Mill Creek - we are small and have a diversity of spiritual beliefs, we also have active vocal ministry and support each other in our own understanding of the spirit. We do monthly worship sharing of faith and practice. We feel grateful to have this place of worship. our historic meetinghouse has its own spirit of magic and spirituality. Our diversity of belief deepens our faith and we embrace those differences. We encourage sharing and we try to listen to each other and respect what is shared.

West Grove West Grove Monthly Meeting Query Answer for Second Quarter 2024

The Third Query on Spiritual Nurture was read. Sometimes messages create a ripple of interest in others and lead to other messages or discussion after Meeting. One Friend expressed thanks for the feeling of community in the Meeting. We help where we can when someone voices a problem.

Kennett - One responder replied that during the KMM Spiritual Retreat, we supported each other in our spiritual journeys and encouraged the use of spiritual

practices that deepen our faith. She also noted the diversity of Spirituality practices in KMM which nurtures a richer spiritual experience.

Another replied that in KMM Adult discussions, we support each other in our spiritual journeys. Last month, discussion focused on verbal ministry.

The Clerk replied that in our meetings for worship there is a shared experience of Divine in which we nurture our collective spiritual growth.

One responder stated that today's letter from Jean Tennent illustrated the care and support that members experience as part of our Spiritual community.

Newark - Most of us faithfully attend meeting for worship, where we find that both the silence and spoken words appeal to us.

When our clerk asks us to hold a person in the light, because the person's health or another concern, this is deepening our spiritual practices. A Friend agrees that she finds that thinking of a person is a means of spiritual nurture.

Spiritual practices that another Friend finds helpful are:

1. Making a prayer list, because writing down the name down helps her bring that person to her consciousness, helping her to hold them close. Also, saying the person's name helps her bring power to this practice.
2. Walking her dog, for being outside in the earth and the nurture it provides is beneficial,
3. Connecting on the internet with QuakerSpeak and Friends Journal.

One way we support each other and nourish our spirituality is with our Opportunity Fund. The fund provides financial assistance for participation in various opportunities for spiritual growth.

Part C asks about our relationship with life on earth, but a Friend notes that humanity is part of life on earth. She believes that the wording of this part of the query could be better, and that the words of the song "Simple Gifts" could help us "come down where we

ought to be” by helping us include ourselves as a part of nature.

We support each other, and we accept each other’s beliefs. We accept traditional Christians, people of the Jewish faith, Muslims, or individuals with no religious beliefs. Accepting everyone is part of allowing others their religious search. A Jewish Friend remarked that she always feels supported in our meeting. Another Friend has found that at any point of a difficult situation, she can call on someone from meeting who may have knowledge of that issue, and even if they don’t have it, it’s enough for her to know they will listen. She also treasures the bluntness of one of our members, while appreciating all of us. She observes that we have no arguments, but some discussions. And for her, it’s all good. She feels that’s the divine.

Treasurer’s Report - Karen Conlan

We are three quarters of the way through WQ’s fiscal year. Much of what we receive and pay is as a passthrough for PYM covenants and FFC disbursements.

62% of budgeted income is in. 69% of budgeted expenses paid.

Karen will email treasurers with reminders.

A friend asked if there is a difference in what operating and reserve funds can be used for? *There is not difference.*

Reserve funds are just from years when there was a surplus.

We received the report with appreciation for the work of our treasurer.

Western Quarter, Inc Meeting - clerk called meeting of WQ Inc to open.

Parkersville Meetinghouse Annual Report, attached at close of minutes.

London Britain Meetinghouse Annual Report, attached at close of minutes.

Reports were received with gratitude.

The clerk closed the meeting of Western Quarter, Inc.

Honorarium for speaker – \$200 was suggested to cover travel from northern Virginia for today’s speaker.

Friends approved that \$200 and approved \$200 more.

Friends approved the following minute for Hockessin Monthly Meeting.

Western Quarter minutes its appreciation for the Worship and Ministry and Hospitality committees at Hockessin Monthly Meeting for the programming and fellowship at our January 21 gathering. Hockessin Friends provided a warm welcome on a very cold winter day. Close to two dozen came from around the quarter for program and worship focused around the peace testimony. Queries included: How am I suc-

cessful in living out the peace testimony? What are we doing as a Friends meeting in our communities to recognize and correct the causes of violence? The children had a program on the peace testimony and joined part of meeting for worship. All enjoyed a hearty potluck.

Additional business:

Several Friends asked for news on New West Grove Meetinghouse. Termite damage has made the interior unsafe. Some of the floor and benches have collapsed. Termite treatment is still in progress but it is likely that the meetinghouse will need to come down. A deepened silence settled amongst friends.

Updates and discussions on New West Grove are expected to be on the agenda of the May 19 Historic Properties Committee Meeting. These are held via Zoom. Contact the coordinator to get connection details.

Friends asked that details on the Friends Historical Association program at Pennsbury Manor be shared. Worship at Fallsington Meeting, brown bag lunch and tour of Pennsbury Manor. Contact the coordinator if you are interested in carpooling.

Friends also shared the unique opportunity of having the annual Friends General Conference Meeting so close at Haverford College this summer, with PYM’s Annual Sessions immediately following also at Haverford.

Kennett Meeting hosted Friends Fiduciary in March to learn more of what they do. Friends Fiduciary handles funds for Friends meetings and organizations along Quaker values and are receptive to activist shareholding with meetings and organizations.

We settled into a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Wood, coordinator

(Reports referenced in minutes can be found online: <https://westernquarterquakers.org/business-meeting-info/>)

DRAFT MINUTES—The Western Quarterly Meeting Support Committee met June 9, 2024 on Zoom.

Present were Clerk Margaret Walton (London Grove), Treasurer Karen Conlan (London Grove), Coordinator Deb Wood, Dick Logan (Hockessin), Judy Hinds (Kendal), Karen Halstead (New Garden), Bob Frye (London Grove), Shelley Hastings (Newark), Stan Glowiak (Centre), and Mary Sproat (West Grove).

The meeting opened with a period of worship to settle our thoughts, seeking God’s direction.

Budget: The first item of business was consideration

of the draft budget for FY2024-2025. Treasurer Karen Conlan reviewed the proposal that she drafted with the help of Bob Frye and Deb, showing reduced Western Quarter covenant but expecting higher bank interest by moving the savings and money market accounts to high yield accounts. Deb's hours would be reduced from 21 per week to 19.5 per week, along with office expenses. The amount of \$500 is in the budget for the elevator at the Friends Home per approval of the Quarter last year. The deficit is therefore reduced to \$170. Deb will email the proposal to Support Committee members. Karen voiced the hope that Meetings will look at our rising costs and increase their covenants. Newark has already decided to increase theirs because they do not want to see Deb's hours cut. Office expenses were cut this year when Deb received a large donation of copy paper. Bob asked if giving up the office at Kennett Meetinghouse would be possible and have Deb work from home. She explained, however, that the office is also where many Quarter records are stored, and that by being there each week she has good contact with Kennett Meeting. Another suggestion would be to simply use the space for storage so as to possibly lower the rent. At the July Quarterly Meeting, along with a discussion as to what Meetings want from Quarter, a message will be given to Meetings, asking them to raise their covenants. Hopefully this will engender discussions in Monthly Meetings about this subject. Members of this committee need to take this to their Monthly Meetings. It must not be lost on us that we need also to understand Yearly Meeting's issues. After July Quarter, perhaps the Clerk and Treasurer can craft a letter to Monthly Meetings summarizing the issue and asking for help. We need advertising! Deb will include what the Quarter does for Meetings in the mailing. Stan offered to help with these activities.

Joint Quarter: The joint meeting with Concord Quarter will be held July 21 at West Chester Meeting, with Kennett as co-host. Schedule:

8:30 coffee, snacks

9 - 10:15 Business Meeting

10:30 - 11:15 - Intergenerational Meeting for Worship

11:30 Program - a teacher working with the children on climate change

12:00 Lunch - grill for lunch; Kennett will help with sides, Concord will help with desserts.

Deb will send out flyers soon.

Updates from Meetings: Historic Properties - Deb is trying to contact Steve Balderston at Colora and has had communications with PYM about disposing of the property. Friends Fiduciary was suggested for information about transferring the property.

London Britain - Newark is moving forward with the assessment of the water damage. Shelley announced the August 18 Ruth Thompson and Diana Wise Memorial Art Show. Newark Friends meet there for worship each week at 10:30.

Newark wants Judy Hinds to speak on Warner Mifflin in September as an "undercover fundraiser".

Judy pointed out that she will be speaking about him at Montclair Meeting on June 16. At a meeting with PA Rep. Christina Sappey, Judy learned that Rep. Sappey is interested in expanding tourism in our area.

Hockessin held their First Day School picnic today. They are slowly refurbishing the house on the property. They have had a few additions in membership.

West Grove - Stay tuned for another history talk in the Fall.

Centre - Quakerism 101 is finished and they are deciding on doing 102 in the Fall. They have put a new roof on the caretaker's house and the Property Committee approved adding solar panels on the roof.

New Garden - Members are looking to the Meeting's future, with discussions with Deb. They plan to have the property surveyed so as to determine the property lines.

London Grove - The age of the white oak that fell last September was confirmed to predate the arrival of William Penn, and that it was the Champion White Oak in Pennsylvania. Meeting for Worship next week will be outdoors with members of Allen AME Church of Oxford, including a Juneteenth and Father's Day program, followed by lunch. Bob invited members of the Quarter.

Kendal - Two Friends from Guatemala on their way to FGC will speak on June 30. Kendal will host Quarter in October, when they have invited Jordan Landes, Curator of the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College, to talk about celebrations for George Fox's 400th Birthday.

Karen Halstead noted that the Quarter needs to emphasize people who brought light and laughter to the world.

The Meeting closed with a period of Worship.

Margaret I. Walton, Clerk

Mary M. Sproat, Recording Clerk

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/>