



Western Quarterly News

of the Religious Society Of Friends

Western Quarterly Meeting Newsletter

Summer 2025

Selections from Yearly Meetings and Friends Organizations

Note from the coordinator: There is a lot happening in our lives and communities, so I have opted to share a few minutes and epistles from yearly minutes that came to my inbox. As I read about Warner Mifflin in anticipation of Judy Hinds' program at Quarterly Meeting, I found myself thinking again and again of these words from George Fox:

This is the word of the Lord God to you all, a charge to you all in the presence of the living God; be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come; that your life and conduct may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one; whereby in them ye may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you: then to the Lord God you shall be a sweet savour, and a blessing.

A Minute from South Central Yearly Meeting—April 2025

Because of our testimonies of integrity and equality and our commitment to peaceful resolution to conflicts, Quakers from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas call on our US government to end American complicity in genocide as defined by the international Genocide Convention. We know that many of our elected officials support the Trump and Netanyahu administrations' actions. To be silent in these horrific times is to be complicit in genocide ourselves.

We call on our president, senators, and representatives to follow, rather than violate, US and international law by:

- Ensuring the immediate delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza and cease providing the equipment, materials, and supplies that are used in the support of the genocide.
- Condemning US and Israeli statements and actions relating to ethnically cleansing Gaza of Palestinians as we do for any people anywhere. We also denounce the Trump administration's

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In this Issue:

- * Gaza statements from South Central YM and Britain YM
- * Fourth Query
- * Warner Mifflin at 7th Month QM
- * QIBS epistle
- * PYM Collaboratives and YM speakers
- * WQM Minutes, including Query Responses
- * JQM Flyer!

***7th Month Joint Quarterly Meeting with Concord Quarter
Sunday, July 20, 2025
Centre —4th Query***

October 19, 2025 — London Grove—7th Query

January 18, 2026—Newark—11th Query

April 19, 2026—Hockessin—2nd Query

July 19, 2026— Kendal—5th Query

July is a Joint Quarter Gathering with Concord Quarter.

4th Query— Nurturing Our Community: Care for the Meeting

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| <p>For the Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we help each other to live with integrity and contribute that integrity to the life of our meeting? • How does our meeting learn of members' needs and offer its assistance? • How does our meeting nurture members in all stages of life? • How does our meeting welcome those new to Friends and integrate them into our community? • When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the meeting respond? | <p><i>For the Individual:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Am I ready both to offer and to accept meeting assistance when needed?</i> • <i>Do I treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension?</i> <p><i>What opportunities have I taken to know, work and worship with Friends in the larger spiritual communities we share?</i></p> <p><i>General Queries</i> are taken from the newest version of PYM's <i>Faith and Practice</i>, available online.</p> |
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tactic of supporting the genocide by punishing Americans, students, and others for their speech critical of the genocide. We therefore call on our president, senators, and representatives to:

- Stop all attempts to cancel visas and deport people (who are in the US legally and) whose only supposed crime is their speech, whether expressed orally, in writing, or through non-violent protest.

From Britain Yearly Meeting

The Religious Society of Friends in Britain is the first church group in Britain to state their belief that the Israeli government is committing genocide in Gaza. Here is the statement from Britain Yearly Meeting -- <https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/quakers-first-british-church-to-state-belief-that-genocide-underway-in-gaza>.

From The Quakers and 'Indian Boarding Schools' Research Network (QIBS) - shared by PYM's First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative during Collaborative Reports Saturday, June 28, 2025

April 18, 2025

Dear Friends in U.S. and Canada Yearly Meetings,

We write to you as a group of U.S. Quakers who formed the Quakers and 'Indian Boarding Schools' Research Network (QIBS) in late 2022. Our collective purpose is to thoroughly research 19th-century Quaker involvement in assimilationist boarding schools, and to make our findings accessible to Native American families and tribes and to the Religious Society of Friends.

Native Americans call us to this work as they seek answers to the question, "What happened to our children?" We share our research findings with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS), the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and the tribes, and we seek guidance from Native elders, past and present.

We come to this work through spiritual leadings and carry it out through collective discernment. Most of us conduct our QIBS work with spiritual accompaniment, including committees of our yearly or monthly

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An Introduction to Warner Mifflin, the Quaker Abolitionist who can Speak to Us Today

A few years ago Judy Hinds of Kendal Meeting read Gary Nash's 2017 book *Warner Mifflin: Unflinching Quaker Abolitionist*. ([Link to Friends Journal review](#).) A few chapters in she realized we all, Friends especially, ought to know more about this man. Judy teamed up with Mike McDowell, a local historian and member of Newark Meeting, and using friends at Kendal for feedback, developed a workshop on Mifflin for Friends General Conference.

Descended from Quakers that arrived in New Jersey in 1677, Warner Mifflin grew up on a plantation on the eastern shore playing with the enslaved children owned by his parents, pledged he wouldn't own slaves, then later owned at least 27 African Americans. Mifflin owed his wealth, education, and opportunities largely to the fruits of the enslaved people he and his family owned. Mifflin was of his times and community, being comfortable with his surroundings until prodded into a different viewpoint by the questions of an enslaved playmate and decades of life experiences to become not just a leading abolitionist among Quaker communities, but also across the new United States and in Europe.

Judy Hinds' presentation will highlight the context for Mifflin's transformation, techniques, and determination. Mike McDowell's opening and closing of a 2013 *Quaker Hill Quill* article (<https://www.halebyrnes.org/newsflash01.pdf>) provides a summary of Mifflin's work and import to give you a sense of his actions and regard.

"For those under the impression that the American movement to abolish slavery began in the 1830s, it may come as a surprise to learn that there was an earlier anti-slavery movement during the eighteenth century. What may be equally surprising to Delawareans is that one of the most vigorous opponents of slavery and the oppression of African Americans during the founding era was a Delaware Quaker, Warner Mifflin. Mifflin, a second cousin to the American General and



Pennsylvania governor Thomas Mifflin, labored for the liberty of African Americans by peaceful means. As an elder of the Society of Friends, he lobbied the legislatures of Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, and also the US Congress on more than one occasion. The successes and failures of Mifflin's anti-slavery efforts provide a valuable insight into how Delaware and the country grappled with the issue of slavery during the founding era.

"The poet and abolitionist John Greenleaf Whittier would call Warner Mifflin "one of the truest and noblest men of any age or country." However, of the many tributes and eulogies given to the memory of Mifflin and his service to the cause of humanity perhaps the most moving and meaningful is that of Richard Allen of Philadelphia, the founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church who had formerly been enslaved in Kent County, Delaware. In the year following Mifflin's death Allen wrote, "We cannot but regret the loss of that great and good man Warner Mifflin,...whose labours and anxiety were great for the freedom of our race; who for many years devoted his time to that service, and who has been instrumental in the hands of the African race...We hope that every slave he has been instrumental in freeing, is a star in his garment, and that he will shine unto the perfect day."

For further reading:

Mike McDowell's full article mentioned here: <https://www.halebyrnes.org/newsflash01.pdf>

Review of Gary Nash's 2017 biography of Mifflin in Friends Journal:

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/book/warner-mifflin-unflinching-quaker-abolitionist/>

Michael R. McDowell, "Warner Mifflin at the American Anti-slavery Crossroads," *Delaware History*, 36, no. 2 (Fall – Winter 2022 – 2023): 91–116.

Gary B. Nash, *Warner Mifflin: Unflinching Quaker Abolitionist* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017).

Gary B. Nash and Michael R. McDowell, eds., *The Writings of Warner Mifflin: Forgotten Quaker Abolitionist of the Revolutionary Era* (Newark, DE: University of Delaware Press, 2021).

Gary B. Nash and Michael R. McDowell, eds., "Notes on a Journey to Virginia," *Quaker History* 111, no. (2022): 1-50.

cont'd from p. 2 **Quakers and 'Indian Boarding Schools' Research Network**

meetings. The Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples program of Friends Peace Teams provides technical and programmatic support. We believe that for Friends to build positive relationships with Native communities today, we need to examine our shared history with open minds and hearts. QIBS members apply rigorous research standards to this task. We also listen lovingly to the testimonies of both Native people and Friends as they speak to us through historical documents and through our interactions today.

We hear cries of grief and anger from Native communities whose young people were taken away and taught to reject their entire way of life – their languages, cultures, and spiritual practices. We hear the earnest desire of our Quaker forebears to offer the perceived benefits of the European-American Christian way of life to Native people by means of assimilation. We hear from Native people today who express gratitude for these benefits, including those who became Quakers. At the same time, many continue to feel acute pain and grief. We hear Native and human rights organizations define the assimilationist programs of the boarding schools as cultural genocide. And we see how Native communities are working to heal these deep wounds by teaching their languages, revitalizing their cultures, and defending their sovereignty.

Quakers can support Native-led healing processes, and some monthly and yearly meetings are already doing this. We invite you to learn about the efforts of Alaska Friends Conference, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, and New England Yearly Meeting (included in the Resources below). Other meetings are supporting Indigenous language education programs, Land Back projects, and legislation to create a U.S. Truth and Healing Commission. We are encouraged by these Friendly acts of conscience and pray that they will multiply in the coming years.

We invite you to join us in considering these queries:

- *How are we learning the history of Quakers' interactions with Native peoples from various points of view?*
- *What might right relationship with Native peoples look like in our meetings and communities today?*

Thank you, Friends. Please hold our Quakers and 'Indian Boarding Schools' Research Network in your hearts and your prayers as we seek to be faithful to our callings. We send warm greetings and good wishes as you gather together, and we entrust you to the transforming love and power of the Spirit that unites and guides us. Let us see what love can do.

In Faith and Friendship,

Signed by the members including Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Sandra Boone Murphy, First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative

Reports from PYM Collaboratives

Collaboratives provide annual reports to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. This year reports were given in a virtual session Saturday, June 28. Many of the collaboratives have sections on the yearly meeting website. Feel free to visit for more information about meeting times, the work they do, and how to participate.

Collaboratives unite individuals across the yearly meeting (PYM) into a dynamic, "community organized" yearly meeting. Collaboratives group Friends with similar ideas and interests into committees that help launch PYM projects or activities.

[Addressing Racism Collaborative](https://www.pym.org/addressing-racism-collaborative/) — <https://www.pym.org/addressing-racism-collaborative/>

[Eco-Justice Collaborative](https://www.pym.org/eco-justice-collaborative/) — <https://www.pym.org/eco-justice-collaborative/>

[First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative](https://www.pym.org/first-contact-reconciliation-collaborative/) — <https://www.pym.org/first-contact-reconciliation-collaborative/>

[Friends Ending Gun Violence Collaborative](https://www.pym.org/friends-ending-gun-violence/) — <https://www.pym.org/friends-ending-gun-violence/>

[Middle East Collaborative](https://www.pym.org/middle-east-collaborative/) — <https://www.pym.org/middle-east-collaborative/>

[Spiritual Formation Collaborative](https://www.pym.org/spiritual-formation-program-collaborative/) — <https://www.pym.org/spiritual-formation-program-collaborative/>

How do we create spiritual communities where everyone feels safe, seen, and supported? - <https://www.pym.org/calendar/tag/cultivating-safe-spaces-series/>

You and your meeting are invited to join PYM for [*Cultivating Safe Spaces*](#), a three-part virtual series designed to support worship, witness, and community care.

In this moment of ongoing harm and courageous healing, we're coming together as Friends to listen deeply, learn practical tools for justice, and discern what Spirit is calling us to do — individually and collectively.

This series is open to all Friends and attenders, and is especially intended for those seeking ways to respond to concerns about safety, accountability, and inclusion within our yearly meeting.

Save The Dates:

Part 1: [*Holding Space – A Listening Session, July 7, 2025 | 7:00 pm.*](#)

Part 2: [*Knowing Our Rights – A Workshop with New Sanctuary Movement July 9, 2025 | 7:00 pm.*](#)

Part 3: [*Spirit-Led Action – Collective Discernment for the Way Forward August 19, 2025 | 7:00 pm.*](#)

Each session includes time for worship, reflection, and community dialogue. After each gathering, Friends are invited to continue the conversation on [**PYM Connect**](#).

Dr. Ayesha Imani and Joyce Ajlouny Will Speak at Annual Sessions

How Can We Sing God's Song in a Strange Land...In Such a Time as This? (Psalms 137:4, Esther 4:14 and 16)

Wednesday | July 23, 2025 (Online Only)

Join Friends to share with Dr. Ayesha Imani an opportunity to be guided by Spirit about how to bear witness with true authenticity to the gospel given to us. What do we do right here, right now, in the midst of our pain, nearly paralyzed by fear, fighting despair, witnessing our world in peril? Let us open our hearts and minds and allow ourselves to draw inspiration from the presence of the Divine and the legacy of our ancestors.



Pictured left Dr. Ayesha Imani and Pictured Right General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee Joyce

Quaker Action – Resist, Build and Persist

Friday, July 25, 2025 (Over Zoom and In-Person at Cheyney University)

Friends will learn from AFSC General Secretary Joyce Ajlouny as she shares how the American Friends Service Committee, grounded in Quaker values for over a century, works globally to challenge unjust systems and build peace especially at this critical moment of rising repression and authoritarianism, and the world's catastrophic failure of conscience as war and genocide rage unchecked. Through its framework of Resisting injustice and championing immigrant rights, demanding Palestinian rights and a ceasefire in Gaza, and challenging runaway military spending; Building sanctuary, mutual support, and just peace; and Persisting in courageous, principled action as it has for nearly 11 decades, AFSC offers a vital witness. Joyce will issue a powerful call to action, inspiring us to join, as "members one of another", this faithful, collective Quaker witness.

Minutes of Western Quarterly Meeting 27 April, 2025

The meeting was held via Zoom.

Present - friends from West Grove, London Grove, Hockessin, Centre, Kennett, Kendal, Fallowfield, Newark, and New Garden.

We began with a period of worship.

Query Responses

New Garden Monthly Meeting - The first query was read on Meeting for Worship.

We hold our Meeting For Worship in stilled expectant waiting upon God. We are a small group & are easily drawn together. This form of worship can be nurturing but we are not able to know if everyone is feeling nurtured because this is a personal thing.

Our members agree that when we come together we do feel that we are one. Our building feels very safe not only to our members, but also to outside groups such as "The Men of New Garden". Vocal ministry is never discouraged.

West Grove Monthly Meeting

We often have silent meeting for worship, but when there is ministry it is powerful. Worship provides an opportunity to perceive answers to problems or questions that arise during the week.

Newark Monthly Meeting, March 9, 2025

QUERY THREE DEEPENING OUR FAITH: SPIRITUAL NURTURE

The third query was considered by Aliza Appel, Annemarie Carr, Lily Grosso, Shelley Hastings, Maggie Ladd, Treba Thompson, Ariana Langford, Diane Kesler, Sally Milbury-Steen, David Nuttall, Wayne Thompson, and Mike McDowell

A Friend remarked that Part c., which asks in what ways we support each other in our efforts to increase our understanding of humanity's relationship to life on earth, spoke to her. She replied, "How do I compare my right hand to my left hand?" Our relationship to earth is clear: that's why we compost, work for clean air, clean water, and engage in various environmental concerns. However, the word "other," as it should specify life other than our own, is missing from Part c. Our humanity and "other" life are the same thing. The earth can live without us. This is a basic understanding.

In response to Part f, another Friend thinks that it's ironic that her spiritual life has integrated an understanding of a well-ordered relationship with the earth in her. Yet, her reverence for the interconnectedness of all life has made her against what other people are doing.

Part d., about recognizing, developing and nurturing the spiritual gifts of all in our meeting, is one of our highlights. The Friend who provides child care for our meeting does this very well; it's her gift. Part d. can be summed up as the

question, "are we holding each other up?" And the answer is yes! A Friend thinks that it's the world that is the problem.

A Friend commented that Friends accept her as she is, warts and all. She also commented that her faith is very mutable, what she gets comes from other people. She thinks that if there's a God, God cares for us through each other. When we care for each other, we're providing spiritual nurture. And that's what deepens her faith.

A Friend thought it was great when another Friend talked about hearing the Serenity Prayer reframed and reworded to a prayer to "change the things I cannot accept." The Friend added that she never did like the word "serenity." She says that making fun of everything is her way of coping. However, she said she's learning how to not put her foot in her mouth. She agrees with John Lewis, who talked about "good trouble," saying there have been little plots that have changed history for the better.

A visiting Friend asked "How our meeting can welcome those who are oppressed." He said "At London Grove we're considering the Yeats poem "The Second Coming." He feels that the "ceremony of innocence," which is "drowned" in the poem, is alive in Friends' meetings, and that everything based on fear is illusory. Love is all encompassing, helping us set aside fear.

A Friend shared her daily spiritual practice, which is to:

1. Make a prayer list of people to pray for.
2. Go out in the world, whatever the weather, to accept the now.
3. Add a new app on her phone to make calls to let people know how hurtful their actions are right now.
4. Print out our rights concerning protesting.
5. View the George Lakey movie, *Our Fear*.
6. *Think about Friends that have been doing things that are spiritual, and practicing it. She believes that there is certainly a need for holiness.*

On behalf of Newark Monthly Meeting,
respectfully submitted,
Mike McDowell

WQM Inc meeting was called into session at 1:11pm

Bob Frye gave a report on Pennsgrove Meetinghouse. We received the report with appreciation. We noted the rise in insurance costs and asked Bob to see if Pennsgrove can go under PYM's insurance umbrella.

Education Fund Report - the coordinator shared the balance and noted that 6 grants for \$5,400 will be given in the 4th fiscal quarter.

Colora Meetinghouse - our first title search was done with an incorrect address even though the name of the listing was Colora Meetinghouse. The law firm is in the midst of a second title search with the Corn Cake Row, Colora, MD address.

The meeting of WQM Inc was closed and the meeting for worship with attention to business of Western Quarterly Meeting resumed at 1:21pm.

West Grove Meeting Concern - Heather Mickelson

WGMM has rented space to a day care since the late 1960s. Initially it was to help support nurses at Jennersville Hospital. The daycare has continued to exist and provide needed low-cost daycare to area families.

The day care is not under official care of West Grove Monthly Meeting; it leases space from WGMM. A member of West Grove Monthly Meeting is the current board president and is looking for a few community members to join the board. Board members do not have to be Pennsylvania residents. The day care provides child care support for about 50 families.

Shelley Hastings agreed to attend the upcoming board meeting.

Friends suggested that legal counsel be consulted about governance concerns to determine if there is liability for West Grove Monthly Meeting and the board officers.

Friends also suggested checking the status of the malpractice insurance coverage.

Minutes from the Quarter – on PYM v. DHS

At least four monthly meetings shared minutes in support of PYM joining others in a lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security's policy change empowering ICE to enter houses of worship. West Grove shared that it also expressed support and made a financial contribution to support the legal case.

Fallowfield would appreciate a quarter minute as it is a small meeting that is helped by action taken by the corporate body.

Western Quarterly Meeting minutes support for PYM's lawsuit against DHS.

Joint Quarter working group - Stan Glowiak, Deb Wood

We do have a planning group that includes four friends from Centre Meeting to work with the coordinator, clerk, and friends from Concord Quarter. Several of us will meet May 4 with Concord Quarterly Meeting's Planning Committee.

The previous schedule was: 9:30am program 11:00 worship, followed by lunch, and meeting for business after lunch.

Judy Hinds of Kendal Meeting has agreed to do a program on Warner Mifflin.

With two meetings for business to hold at once, we may need to move one of the meetings for business to another day and hold it online or keep meeting for business brief. Delaware fire police assistance for pedestrian traffic would likely be \$500-600 for the day.

WQM Read - Bayard Rustin book working group

tonya thames taylor, Stan Glowiak, and Margaret Walton volunteered to be a steering committee to find a date and plan the discussion of *Bayard Rustin: A Legacy of Protest and Politics*.

Coordinator updates - I've been attending PYM joint council meetings and nominating committee meetings. There are openings on all committees. Friends should be in touch with Deb if they have an interest in serving Friends. From PYM - if there are monthly meetings seeing a change in participation of members in the life of their meeting because of the move to do ICE arrests at places of worship, please communicate that change to yearly meeting

clerk, Nikki Mosgrove at nmosgrove@pym.org or general secretary Christie Duncan-Tessmer at cduncan-tessmer@pym.org.

Western Quarter Nominating - John Voss, Centre Meetings, is willing to serve the quarter as assistant treasurer.

Friends approved the nomination of John Voss as assistant treasurer.

Margaret Walton has served us faithfully and well as clerk. We do need to begin to find our next quarter clerk.

Treasurer's Report - read by Deb

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

Upcoming Events and Announcements -

The Delaware branch of Churches for Middle East Peace is willing to give a presentation for Friends and the public if Friends would like to host them on the current situation facing Gazans, Palestinians, and Israelis.

—Every other Thursday there is a protest at Old Kennett Meetinghouse along route 1 organized by Kendal residents and open to all from 4-5:30pm. They will be out this Thursday, May 1.

David Gray, Principal and Head of School gave a very moving presentation on Brumanna School, the Friends school in Lebanon and its key role in the community. Kendal Meeting and Western Quarter's coordinator helped organize the event.

Kendal Meeting also noted that they made a special contribution to Pendle Hill to help them recover from recent severe storm damage.

Every Friday 10:30 Kendal holds a gun safety, violence reduction vigil.

Every Saturday in Kennett from 4:00-5:30pm there is a protest at State and Union Streets in Kennett Square.

Wednesday July 23-Sunday July 27 Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting at Cheyney University <https://www.pym.org/sessions/> - **schedule and registration to come.**

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Wood, coordinator



Quaker Walk participants at London Grove Meeting



Centre Monthly Meeting welcomes
Concord and Western Quarterly Meetings
Sunday, July 20, 2025
at Centre Friends Meeting
311 Centre Meeting Rd, Greenville, DE

8:30- meetings for business:
Concord Quarter in the schoolhouse [CQ Zoom](#)
Western Quarter in the meetinghouse & Zoom

**9:30 - Judy Hinds, Kendal MM, presents
Warner Mifflin's Quakerism in Action
in the schoolhouse for middle school and up**

**9:30 - 11:45 children's program - schoolhouse
Equality led by Kristin Simmons of PYM**

**11:00-11:45 meeting for worship - meetinghouse
& Zoom (link to come in future email)**

**11:00-11:45 youth program - schoolhouse
Quaker Abolitionists
led by Tom Martin, Birmingham MM**

**12:15 lunch - Centre Meeting Friends will provide
lunch - potluck items welcomed**

**child care also available:
9:30-lunch, perhaps earlier**



Judy and silhouette
of Warner Mifflin.

Warner Mifflin's Quakerism in Action

Judy will lead us through activities using maps, making timelines, and walking us through history to hear how Warner Mifflin (1745-1798), unflinching Quaker abolitionist, speaks to us today.

Parking available at the meetinghouse and schoolhouse across the road.
We will use both the meetinghouse and schoolhouse during the day.