



Western Quarterly News  
the newsletter of Western Quarterly  
Meeting of the Religious Society of  
Friends  
Fall 2025

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## FROM OUR YEARLY MEETING

*Greetings Friends,*

**Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Friends are invited to [a called business meeting](#) on Monday, October 6, at 6:00 PM. This single-agenda meeting will be held on Zoom.**

*The General Secretary Search Committee will bring forward their recommendation for the next General Secretary for Friends' discernment and approval.*

*This session is intended for Friends in PYM meetings. There will not be visitors at this meeting; if you have received this message in error, kindly hold this message lightly and disregard.*

[Register for Called Meeting](#)

*If you have any questions before the meeting, please contact Nikki Mosgrove, PYM Presiding Clerk, at [nmosgrove@pym.org](mailto:nmosgrove@pym.org). [Update Your Contact & Meeting Information](#)*

*Please help us keep our records current and up to date.*

In this issue..

7<sup>th</sup> Query

4<sup>th</sup> Query

Responses

Kids Gratitude

Calendar

Leanpe Way

Opens

Minutes

WQM flyer

**10th Month Quarterly Meeting**

**Sunday, October 19, 2025**

**at London Grove - 7<sup>th</sup> Query**

**January 18, 2026 - Newark - 11<sup>th</sup> Query**

**April 19, 2026 - Hockessin - 2<sup>nd</sup> Query**

**July 19, 2026 - Kendal - 5<sup>th</sup> Query**

*July is held jointly with Concord Quarter.*

**October 18, 2026 - West Grove - 8<sup>th</sup> Query**

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*7th Query - Grounding for Transformed Lives:  
Peace and Alternatives to Violence*

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For the meeting:

- How do we help each other face conflicts with patience, forbearance and openness to healing?
- To what extent does our meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?
- What are we doing as a Friends meeting within our communities:
  - To recognize and correct the causes of violence?
  - To understand the impact of the global military-industrial complex on all aspects of life?
  - To increase the understanding and use of alternatives to violence?
  - To work toward overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?
  - To support the constructive use of authority?
  - To promote the sustainability of the earth?

For the individual:

- *Do I “live in the virtue [power] of that Life and Spirit that took [takes] away the occasion of all wars”?*
- *How do I maintain Friends’ testimony that participation in war and its preparation is inconsistent with the teaching of Jesus?*
- *Do I treat personal conflict as an opportunity for growth?*
- *How do I face my differences with others and reaffirm in action and attitude my love for those with whom I am in conflict?*

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

**Responses to the 4<sup>th</sup> Query - Nurturing Our Community: Care for the Meeting**

- 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?
- *Am I ready both to offer and to accept meeting assistance when needed?*
- *Do I treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension?*
- *What opportunities have I taken to know, work and worship with Friends in the larger spiritual communities we share?*

**West Grove Query answer for 7th mo. Quarter 2025**

The Fourth Query on Care for the Meeting was read. Members do various jobs for the Meeting without a need for publicity about it. We show concern for members by cards and phone calls.

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## Responses to the 4<sup>th</sup> Query - Continued

### Mill Creek Monthly Meeting

We support each other in living in accordance with our testimonies. We consider the history of our faith and the testimonies. We don't judge each other and trust the Spirit to lead us.

We are such a small meeting that we do keep each other informed of members' needs, and we ask if anyone is aware of members in need of assistance at each business meeting and what type of support they may need.

Most of our members are older adults, but we are welcoming to visitors of all ages.

We offer literature about our manner of worship, we have them sign our guest book, and we try to make them feel welcome.

*When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the meeting respond?*

We have not encountered this at our small meeting but if we did, we would lovingly talk to them about our beliefs and manner of worship.

### New Garden Monthly Meeting

The 4th query was read on nurturing our community; care for the Meeting.

We do believe that we help each other to live with integrity & that the life of the Meeting is dependent upon being vigilant regarding protecting our values whenever an issue comes to our attention.

We are not good when it comes to integrating those new to our meeting into our community. Remembering the importance of honesty & integrity, we tend to advise them of other Meetings that we know will answer their needs better than we can.

When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, we usually respond by holding that member in the light, either verbally in meeting or quietly, in silent prayer.

We do not confront those with whom we disagree.

### Kennett Monthly Meeting

One person replied that he thinks KMM members help each other to live with integrity but sometimes we stumble and have to start again. We want to always do better in the future

Another person appreciated that members of Care & Counsel provide her with a ride to Meeting for Worship and she feels blessed

Another replied that KMM welcomes and supports members with an active Care & Counsel committee for advice and pastoral care.

Another replied that he found that during a community meeting, non-Friends were curious about his Quaker membership which led to other conversations about needing community and how KMM Friends are integrated into the broader community.

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### Newark Monthly Meeting

The fourth query was considered by Aliza Appel, Ginny Bailey, Annemarie Carr, Gavin Ferris, Lily Grosso, Shelley Hastings, Maggie Ladd, Richard Ladd, Ariana Langford, Mike McDowell, Sophia Sigel, Treba Thompson, and Wayne Thompson.

We have been blessed with having several visitors recently; a Friend appreciates how welcoming our meeting has been with them. Some of our visitors also came to celebrate Seder at a member's house. Another Friend commented that we welcome visitors with one word: "food."

A Friend suggested that maybe it's time to start having in-person meetings for business so new-comers can experience them.

There are many advantages to Newark MM's being such a small meeting. We're well known to each other: we know if members' words are different than their actions; and we know what members do outside of our meeting. One Friend said she can't think of a time when any members didn't comport themselves with integrity.

A lot of the questions in this query speak to the work of our Care Committee. The Care Committee members ask, to the best of their ability, how everyone in the meeting is doing during each of their meetings. The committee finds out what the individual needs are and offers assistance. Many Friends in our meeting recently helped a member who had knee surgery.

A Friend noted a report in the New York Times about child raising which said that the Quakers have had it right all along. It is our nature to give to our children as we give to each other.

In response to the question concerning integrity, a Friend said there was a man from another meeting who she couldn't believe was a Quaker. He took an ax to his TV one time. She said he was loved, but he was irascible. He also gave his partner a black eye. Yet he believed that violence in the context of war was wrong. She also recalled that Quakers owned slaves at one time. She said that some people can shock you.

She added, "I appreciate all of you. I'm a better person for attending Newark Friends Meeting, and a happier one."

respectfully submitted,

On behalf of Newark Monthly Meeting, Mike McDowell

### London Grove Monthly Meeting

Our community is the glue that holds us together. Parents ask for help from the community when dealing with issues they face with their children. They ask how can I nurture my children? We learn from the children in our community just as they learn from us.

Anna Myers was the kind of person who holds our community together, always a kind, unassuming and welcoming presence among us. We will miss her. Our meeting is nurtured by the shared grace of all of our members as well as members who are no longer present but have brought us to where we are today.



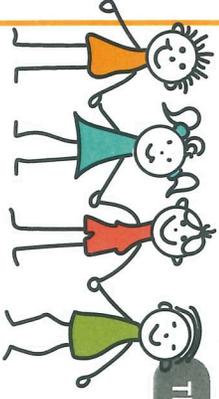
*Memories  
of QM at  
Mill Creek.*



# GRATITUDE CALENDAR

for

# KIDS!



Theme

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**...for learning and education.**  
Spend 30 minutes doing something you are learning.

**...for your feelings.**  
Tell someone what you are feeling.

**...for mental clarity.**  
Spend 10 minutes sitting quietly.

**...for joy!**  
Tell someone what you're excited about.

**...for challenges.**  
What was a hard project or conversation that helped you learn?

**...for role models.**  
Who is someone that you've learned from? Thank them.

**Reflection:**  
Thinking about the past week's activities about you, what is one thing you are grateful for today?

Use this calendar as a means for practicing

gratitude... for something each day.

For every week there's a theme with a larger task on Sunday, small

challenges throughout the week, and ending with a reflection on Saturday.

YOU!

COMMUNITY

MATERIAL NEEDS

WIDER SOCIETY

EARTH

**...for friends.**  
Talk to a friend you haven't talked to in a while.

**...for fun and health.**  
Play a game with someone.

**...for humour and laughter.**  
What's a recent joke or funny meme you've seen? Share it with someone who you know will laugh.

**...for family.**  
Tell a family member or someone who feels like family why they are important to you.

**...for music.**  
Sing a song with someone (or to someone who wants to hear you sing).

**...for the ability to exercise.**  
Do something active with friends.

**Reflection:**  
Thinking about the past week's activities about community, what is one thing you are grateful for today?

**...for shelter.**  
Invite someone to your home for a visit or an overnight.

**...or running water.**  
When did you use water yesterday? What would your life be like if you couldn't turn on the faucet?

**...for transportation.**  
How do you get places? What if you had fewer choices about how to travel?

**...for electricity.**  
How did you use electricity yesterday? What would your life be like without electricity?

**...for healthy and nourishing food.**  
Help prepare a favorite meal with family.

**...heat and air conditioning.**  
Do you have heat in the winter? Air conditioning in the summer? What if you didn't?

**Reflection:**  
Thinking about the past week's activities about material needs, what is one thing you are grateful for today?

**...for the global community.**  
Learn about people in another country. What is similar to your life? What is different?

**...for civil servants.**  
Tell your mail carrier thank you – or write them a note.

**...for the wisdom of age.**  
Tell someone who is a lot older than you how they have helped you or what you admire about them.

**...for the next younger ones.**  
Tell someone who is younger than you how they have helped you or what you like about them.

**...for kindness.**  
Think of something kind that someone has done for you. Do something kind for someone else.

**...for audio and video calls.**  
Who do you talk with by phone or computer that you don't usually see in person?

**Reflection:**  
Thinking about the past week's activities about wider society, what is one thing you are grateful for today?

**...for a clean environment.**  
Go with your family to pick up trash on a walk together.

**...for nature.**  
What is one thing/being you appreciate in nature (a tree, an animal, a river, etc.)? Do something good for that thing/being.

**...for reuse opportunities.**  
Instead of throwing something away, find someone who wants it OR find a different way to use it.

**...for sunsets.**  
Go outside and watch the sunset with someone else.

**...for the seasons.**  
Tell someone what you like about the current season.

**...for fresh food.**  
What's your favorite fruit or vegetable? Imagine and appreciate all the people who helped grow it and help get it to your house.

**Reflection:**  
Thinking about the past week's activities about the Earth, what is one thing you are grateful for today?



# RSWR

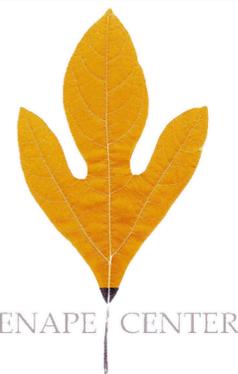
## Lenape Way Opens: three recent coincidences

Deb Wood

Whenever there are coincidences in my life, I see it as “way opening” as Friends say. And I take that opening as the Light speaking to me. This past week three different things came together. The first was the need to reschedule an advisory committee for [Towards Right Relationship with Native Peoples](#), a program of Friends Peace Teams. We needed to reschedule because the program director was going to be at a burial for Arapaho and Cheyene children who were sent to Carlisle Indian Industrial School by Quaker Indian agent, J.D. Miles. The children died there in the 1880s.

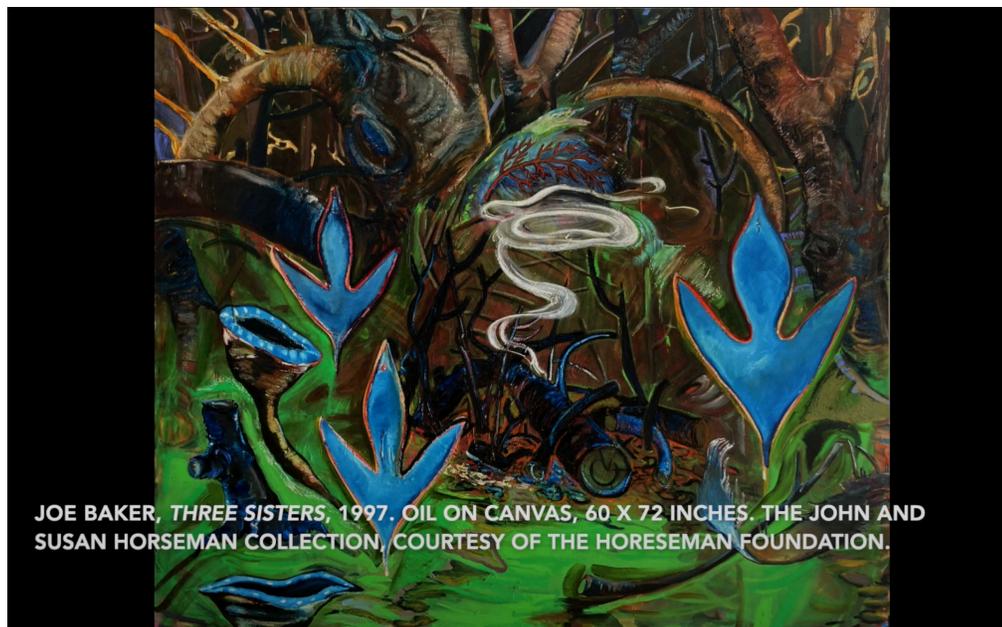
The second coincidence or opening came from the local library the next day. One of my six holds came in, *Wandering Stars* by Tommy Orange. The prologue proved to be a powerful summary of the purpose and impact of the Carlisle Indian School. One of the book’s themes is the generational traumatic impact the school had on indigenous people. The forced dislocation and loss of culture and community bonds was intentional. After 313 years of Indian Wars, the U.S. government’s aim was to “Kill the Indian, Save the Man.” Quaker individuals and meetings were involved in a variety of ways in supporting this program. The introduction was an eloquent reminder of why I had felt such relief that a Friend would be at the burial and ceremonies for the Arapaho and Cheyenne children.

The third coincidence came in meeting for worship at London Grove. A Friend shared an experience that just kept her quaking. A member of the Delaware Nation in Oklahoma who had come east to Lenapehoking to start an in-person connection to her ancestral lands. While here she came across the leaf that featured as a regular and favorite motif in Lenape art, the sassafras. She had not known where that image was from and what it represented until she managed to be in Lenapehoking and found the winakw, the sassafras. A tree that gave food and medicine from its roots, bark, and leaves. It was ceremonial as well as practical and medicinal, and it’s beauty was inspiration and present in Lenape art. The [Lenape Center](#) in Manhattan use the winakw leaf as their symbol .



May Friends continue to celebrate the revitalization of Lenape culture and their connections to their homeland.

*Art work by Lenape artist Joe Baker.*



JOE BAKER, *THREE SISTERS*, 1997. OIL ON CANVAS, 60 X 72 INCHES. THE JOHN AND SUSAN HORSEMAN COLLECTION, COURTESY OF THE HORSEMAN FOUNDATION.

MINUTES Western Quarterly Meeting meeting for worship with attention to business  
20 July, 2025 8:30 am Centre Meetinghouse and via Zoom

We opened with worship.

**Introduction of Visitor** - Joe Kirkener, (York, PA Monthly Meeting) PYM's Director of Development and his partner were present for meeting for business. He looks forward to seeing Friends at Annual Sessions.

**Treasurer's Report**

Deb Wood presented the report prepared by WQ treasurer, Karen Conlan. Friends received the report with gratitude, and approved having surplus be set aside for Historic Properties Reserve.

**FY 2026 Budget for approval**

Friends approved the budget as presented. With appreciation for the treasurer's work.

**Hockessin Monthly Meeting Minute on U.S. attack on Iran**

To Western Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends:

*The members of Hockessin Friends Meeting feel compelled to express our deep concern over the action willfully taken by the leaders of our country that may be the first step toward another virtually endless war, despite having only recently extricated ourselves from another. As a religious community historically committed to peaceful settlement of global differences we are obligated to object. We urge the other Meetings of the Quarter to join us in communicating our repudiation of this military action to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in the interest of creating a broadened advocacy for peaceful resolution of this still resolvable conflict and in endorsing the vigorous actions of the Friends Committee on National Legislation condemning the government's choice to join, rather than abstain, from combat.*

**Friends endorsed this minute and approved the adaptation of it to forward on to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting at Annual Sessions.**

**Minute of appreciation for tonya thames taylor**

Western Quarter minutes its sincere appreciation for tonya thames taylor's vision, extensive preparation and expert facilitation of the Juneteenth event held at Kendal Crosslands on 22 Sixth Month 2025. She encouraged everyone in the Quarter to read the book Bayard Rustin: A Legacy of Protest and Politics, edited by Michael G. Long. She then designed and prepared all the elements for the event--the flyer, discussion questions, the list of outside articles and videos accompanying the reading guide--which contributed to a large turnout and lively discussion. The book discussion attracted more than 30 people not only from Western Quarter, but also Caln Quarter and Salem Quarter. Friends were enriched by and indebted to tonya for this ministry to our community.

**Friends Home Annual Report** - Teal Rickerman shared the report. Friends

received the report with gratitude. We continue to be grateful that Friends Home continues to be an option for senior housing in our community, and that Friends continue to have a presence on the board. We are grateful for their service and commitment.

**Updates from last quarterly meeting:**

West Grove Area Day Care - they have a new member of the board and the board has agreed to explore training in how to be a non-profit board. The daycare has signed a new lease with West Grove Meeting. The daycare continues to be well-utilised by the community. There is a fundraiser coming up at the Hangry Bear in Kennett Square.

Department of Homeland Security lawsuit - there were recent updates in the weekly PYM News emails. If meetings experience the absence of members or attenders due to concerns about ICE presence, please let PYM staff know. It would be helpful for the lawsuit.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Wood, coordinator

**Western Quarterly Meeting**  
**Sunday, October 19, 2025**  
**at London Grove Friends Meeting**

**8:45 - 9:30 AM Welcome and Morning Fellowship**  
Coffee, Cider, and Baked Goods

**9:30 - 10:15 AM Altogether (all ages) Worship**

**10:15-11:45 Childrens Program - The Mixing Stick**  
**to be performed about 11:30am**

**10:30 -11:30 AM Program:**

**Supporting Our Migrant Neighbors**

*Gonzalo Cano from KACS (Kennett Area Community Services)*  
*and*

*Melissa Pacella from SILO (Serving, Inspiring, and Loving Others) in Oxford)*

*Each will talk about current emergency situations among the people they serve--our neighbors, and how we can help.*

**12:00 - 1:00 Lunch**

*London Grove invites us to share in their traditional October Frugal Meal.*

**1:30pm - meeting for worship with attention to business**

**Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89274173199>.**



**London Grove Meetinghouse**  
**500 West Street Road, Kennett Square, PA**