

The Newsletter of *Western Quarterly Meeting*
Of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

P. O. Box 693
Kennett Square, PA 19348
WesternQuarterQuakers.org
@WesternQM (Twitter)

Kennett Friends Meeting
125 W. Sickie Street
610-444-1012
Facebook.com/WesternQM



Our Community of Meetings

Centre Meeting
Crosslands Worship Group
Fallowfield Meeting
Hockessin Meeting
Kendal Meeting

Kennett Meeting
London Grove Meeting
Marlborough Meeting
Mill Creek Meeting
New Garden Meeting

*For more information
go to:
WesternQuarterQuakers.org
and then click on "Our
Community."*

Contents

Quarterly Meeting

FLyer (Page Two)

Middle School

Sleepover

Program

(Page Three)

Events and Stories

in Our

Meetings

(Page Three)

Other Events and

Stories

(Page Four)

Coordinator's

Report

(Page Five to Eight)

Do you have an interest in helping to support our community of Meetings?

*If so, Western Quarterly Meeting
needs your involvement.*

We are currently in need of Friends
to fill the following positions:

Quarterly Meeting Co-Clerk /
Assistant Clerk

Recording Clerk

Assistant Recording Clerk

Also, we are actively recruiting for
the positions of Quarterly Meeting
Clerk and Treasurer

Our current Clerk, Pamela Leland,
and Treasurer, Ariana Langford, will
complete their terms in June 2014.

Please contact Shelley Hastings,

Clerk of our Nominating Committee,
for more information at
zeppychubby@hotmail.com.

Or you can contact us at
Coordinator
@WesternQuarterQuakers.org

Also:

Register yourself for the October
Quarterly Meeting, and register your
middle school child for the middle
school sleepover the night before.
We'll do tie-dying and we'll watch a
movie. Hockessin Meeting, 1501 Old
Wilmington Rd, Hockessin, DE
19707. Go to

WesternQuarterQuakers.org/
RSVP ...Sunday October 19, 5pm, to
Sunday October 20, 1pm. See more
information on pages two and three!

Please send what you'd like to share in
future Newsletters (prose, poems,
pictures, announcements) to
Coordinator@
WesternQuarterQuakers.org.

Tear this flyer out and post it in your Meeting and in public places!

Sunday 20 October 2013, 9am at Hockessin Meeting



And Now for
Something
Completely
Different

Western Quarterly Meeting



www.jonwatts.com!

Jon Watts and
Maggie Harrison
Bringing a Contemporary
Twist in the Centuries-Old
Traditions of Quaker Ministry

Schedule

9:00am to 9:30am

Sign In and Tour of the Meetinghouse

9:30am to 10:30am

Jon Watts and Maggie Harrison

10:30am to 10:45am *Break*

10:45am to 11:30am *Worship*

11:30am to 12:00pm

Business and [the Seventh Query](#)

12:00pm to 1:00pm *Lunch*

1:00pm to 2:00pm

Visioning Session Led by the CLR

Please Register at:

WesternQuarterQuakers.org/rsvp

Registration is not required to
attend, but it *does* help
organizers meet your needs.

Hockessin Meeting
1501 Old Wilmington Rd
Hockessin, DE 19707

Hockessin Meeting Will be
Offering Tours of
Their Renovations!

The Middle School Sleepover Program at Quarterly Meeting

Hosted by
Hockessin Meeting

October | 2013

WesternQuarterQuakers.org/RSVP

**Middle School
Sleep!!!!
Over!!**

↑
**Register
Now!**

**Saturday October 19
5pm to Sunday
October 20
1pm**

We'll do tie-dying and we'll watch a movie. Hockessin Meeting, during
Quarterly Meeting, 1501 Old Wilmington Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707

Holiday Events, Tour of Meetinghouses, PYM

The **Search Committee for the next General Secretary** of PYM is finalizing a job description, and then it will begin its search. If you are interested in applying or want to recommend someone to the Search Committee send email to gssearch@pym.org.

We are in the process of gathering a comprehensive list of **Holiday events** happening at all our monthly meetings between Thanksgiving and Christmas. **Please send us information** from your meeting to Coordinator@WesternQuarterQuakers.org.

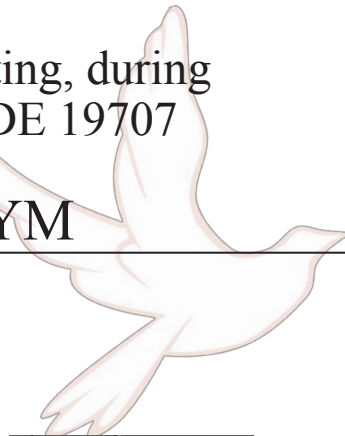
How to Get on the PYM Interim Meeting Agenda: The deadline is three Fridays before Interim Meeting. This will allow enough time for the Agenda Committee to make any additional inquiries...to read more, visit our blog at WesternQuarterQuakers.org/blog.

London Grove Meeting is Spearheading a **Tour of Meetinghouses** in the Summer of 2014! What do you think? Want to help out? Become the liaison for your meeting to develop this great source of outreach. Contact Zac at Coordinator@WesternQuarterQuakers.org

Upcoming Events

London Grove Friends Kindergarten will host a workshop called **Creating Families that Thrive** 11 October 2013, 7 to 8:30pm! John Scardina as a child development specialist will lead the workshop. RSVP for pizza to info@londongrovefriendskindergarten.com.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting will host a weekend retreat for Young Adults across the yearly meeting. The theme for this retreat is **Play and Renewal** 11 October to 13 October at Newtown Friends Meeting. Contact Zac at Coordinator@WesternQuarterQuakers.org



Upcoming Events Cont. Go to Our Website for More Info!

Baraka, next in Fallsington Monthly Meeting'ss Spiritual Journeys Film Series.
Saturday, 12 October at 7pm. The word Baraka means "blessing" in several languages; watching this film, the viewer is blessed with a dazzling barrage of images that transcend...



Bidder 70, Buckingham Meeting Social Justice Film Series Presents Saturday 12 October 2013, 7:00pm to 9:00pm. The film centers on an extraordinary act of civil disobedience demanding government and industry accountability...



Learning and Practicing Spiritual Skills: To Deepen Our Worship Experience at London Grove Meeting 26 October 2013 9am to 4pm, go to WesternQuarterQuakers.org to RSVP or contact Zac Dutton at Coordinator@WesternQuarterQuakers.org.



London Grove Quaker Studies Facilitated by Peggy Jones Sunday 27 October, 10:30am to 11:30am. Friends are invited to delve into a multi-week exploration of the study of Quakerism as we continue our spiritual journeys together.



PYM Children's Religious Life Junior Interim Meeting Saturday, 9 November 2013 at Interim Meeting. While the adults meet and discern the young ones will actually be doing something...to improve our environment. Bring your children to Interim Meeting!



Roots & Shoots! Spiritual Fun For Families with Young Kids! Saturday, 9 November 2013, 1 to 3pm at Hockessin Meeting, 1501 Old Wilmington Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707. K to 3rd Grade and their parents are invited to participate in fun with nature...



Peacemaking after Deadly Conflict Presentation by David Zarembka, Coordinator of African Great Lakes Initiative of the Friends Peace Teams. Wednesday 13 November 2013, 7:00pm at London Grove Friends Meeting. Are revenge, hatred, and another round of...



Western Quarterly Meeting Business Meeting and Potluck 13 November 2013, 6:00pm, Kennett Friends Meeting. Who says you can't "do community" and business at the same time? Send agenda items to Clerk@WesternQuarterQuakers.org.



Events You May Have Missed

Hands Across America Against Gun Violence: on Saturday 28 September a group of Friends from West Philadelphia met to join the community in holding hands. We posted this event ahead on our website. Make sure you check it to stay abreast of all that's happening!



Caring for your Church Collections, Saturday 5 October 2013, 9:30am to 3:00pm, led by Margaret Jerrido archivist at Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church in Philadelphia., this workshop presented best practices for collecting, caring for, and organizing historical materials.



Carol Metzker, Author of *Facing the Monster: How One Person Can Fight Child Slavery*, 11:45am Sunday 6 October 2013 at the Newark Center for Creative Learning sponsored by Newark Monthly Meeting. Metzker took us through the dark world of human trafficking...



*For More Events and Stories, Go to Our Website WesternQuarterQuakers.org;
There are always updates that can't all be included in the print newsletter.*

Coordinator's Report

Nine-Month Review

Accepted on Tuesday Sept 3

October | 2013

At the Most Recent Business Meeting, Friends requested that the Coordinator's most recent report be printed in full in this newsletter. The report follows below:

Introduction

I am led to share with you some of my experiences attending the 2013 Gathering of Friends General Conference (FGC) and the 2013 Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM). After this, I will report on some aspects of my work over the past nine months, focusing on adult programming, operations, and communications. Within each of these aspects of the work, I will identify one challenge, one strength, and one promising trend. I have written a separate progress report attached in Appendix A concerning aspects of the youth activities portion of my role, and I hope you will read it.

Annual Sessions and the Gathering

At the Gathering of Friends General Conference, I led a workshop called "Radical Selves, Powerful Self." I explored aspects of theories I developed in my Master's thesis related to the meaning of life. We asked three big questions: What is the purpose of my life? Who am I? Where do I belong? I learned a great deal. I also learned important facts about the history of the role of elders from George Schaefer during the first plenary session of the Gathering. George argued for reviving the "elder" role in Quaker community. He also spoke eloquently to the healing power of a community that struggles to accommodate mental disorder. George is currently the Care & Aging Coordinator at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Among his other talents, he gives workshops at Monthly Meetings on eldering and conflict resolution. He will offer a workshop for the Worship & Ministry and Care of Members Committees at my home meeting, Wilmington Friends Meeting.

At Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions, we heard about a controversial Transgender Youth Policy, which was suspended by the Yearly Meeting Clerk preceding sessions. The policy had required that youth sleep in areas according to their biological sex rather than by their gender. The Yearly Meeting Clerk, Jada Jackson, found that this policy prevented us from living fully into our testimony on equality. Find out more on the Western Quarterly Meeting blog: westernquarterquakers.org/events-2. I attended a listening session about this policy on the first day of sessions, for which Friends produced a minute of exercise. I will post the minute on the WQM blog as soon as it is available. Additionally, the PYM

Long Range Planning Group produced a report that is available on the pym.org website. The report affirmed the possibility that we might take as our core mission: "...to witness to the transforming power of love and to respond to the leadings of the Spirit with joy in word and deed." Amen!

Western Quarterly Meeting may benefit from considering such a possible core mission as well. If there is one thing I have learned over the past nine months after accepting the position of Coordinator and Youth Activities Coordinator, it is that we have great potential. We just have to be creative. We just have, "to claim our imperfections while reaching for our best selves," as written in the PYM Young Adult Friends Epistle (also available on the pym.org website).

I have written a separate progress report attached in Appendix A concerning aspects of the youth activities portion of my role, and I hope you will read it. For the remainder of this report, I will focus on the aspects of the work I have begun to call adult programming, operations, and communications. Within each of these aspects of the work, I will identify challenges, strengths, and promising trends.

Adult Programming Challenges

We are not as connected as we could be. Our worship could be deeper, and our community more vibrant. There is a tendency to think about this challenge as a numbers challenge, which leads us to argue that we just need to get more people to attend our events. I think differently. Our programs need to be directed by the needs of our constituent Monthly Meetings who build familiar and empowering relationships together. We need to constitute a shared vision that is truly shared, and not just by the folks that show up to Business Meetings.

Adult Programming Strengths

We have a long-standing practice of meeting together. It is called Western Quarterly Meeting. This can remain one great source of community. With added emphasis on deepening our worship, strengthening our connections to Monthly Meetings, and reinvigorating our planning process, Quarterly Meetings can have an even greater impact on the growth and vitality of our community.

Adult Programming Promising Trends

Forty-eight people attended the July 2013 Quarterly Meeting at Marlborough Meeting. I understand traditionally that we tend to attract fewer people at our

summer Quarterly Meeting. Instead, we attracted more. Meanwhile, Ginny Green, Clerk of Worship & Ministry at London Grove, is organizing a workshop on bringing spirituality into our everyday lives on 26 October 2013, 9:00am to 4:00pm. I hope many of you will attend; all are invited. London Grove is also organizing a Tour of Meetinghouses in the summer of 2014, and I am working with them to organize this tour.

I am planning a Property Summit with West Grove Meeting in February of 2014. This summit will bring property people together from all our Monthly Meetings alongside Quarterly Meeting property committees to ask one simple question: "How are we led to support each other in growing together?" I hope property committee folks will see the value in sharing wisdom, visioning, and working together on the collective care of our properties. A Religious Education Visioning and Faith & Play event scheduled for Kennett Monthly Meeting 28 September 2013 (soon!) will have similar aims. I am also in preliminary steps to plan an event for Peace & Social Concerns, Worship & Ministry, and Pastoral Care. I have received nothing but positive responses to these sessions, which I have begun to call Wisdom Sharing Sessions. I hope you will attend one or more of them. Finally, I am working with the Coordinator of Bucks Quarterly Meeting, Holly Olson, and the Young Adult Friends Working Group of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to develop a workshop to offer Monthly Meetings on how to be more welcoming and inviting to Young Adults. There is a path that leads to a community more intimately connected with our neighborhood Monthly Meetings, and we have begun to take steps in this direction.

Communications Challenges

Our Newsletter has been in flux. I have sought an efficient way of collecting information on news from neighborhood Monthly Meetings, and I believe that I have found a system that will work for the future. For any inconvenience, Friends, I offer my apologies. I also struggle to grow our list serve, but I have developed a new way of managing email communication with Constant Contact. I hope that overtime, as we organize community in other ways, our communications venues will concurrently deepen and broaden.

Communications Strengths

Our website could be more interactive and functional, but it has improved tenfold since I arrived. Further work is planned toward integrating the website completely with our other communications venues and making the website more user-friendly. Resources available to local meetings will also increase as time and interest from Friends allows. A new way of managing our mailing list allows Friends only to receive information they are interested to receive.

Communications Promising Trends

There is a great deal of potential, as we move along, for our website and newsletter to serve an outreach role as well. Links to the websites of our constituent Monthly Meetings are only the beginning. Worship times and street addresses are also only the beginning. Pages with pictures, attractive graphics, and news stories that showcase vibrant community across our region are the next step. Of course, our Monthly Meeting communities need actually to be vibrant. We can acknowledge that, for not all but some of our Monthly Meetings, there is still work to be done on this last front.

Operations Challenges

The work that goes into making our adult programming and communications possible needs also to be meaningful. We need to understand our limits, and we need to support any burgeoning life in our midst wherever it may be. A gardener cuts away the dead leaves to make space for new color. When we do our business, the question is never, "does what we are considering sound like a good idea?" The right question has two parts because it also asks: "Would we be willing to commit some of our own time, energy, and/or money?" If the answer is yes, then we are ready to move forward. If the answer is no, then we are not ready.

Many of our committees groan under the weight of work assigned to them on which too few people are able to follow through. We lack a full complement of officers, and we are operating at a deficit in Fiscal Year 2014. This situation is not sustainable. Our daily operations need to become more agile and more able to respond to the Spirit as it moves. Our structure needs to be significantly more focused on our neighborhood Monthly Meetings, on the community that is possible when we seek direction from them. We require a Quarterly Meeting organizational structure that is more intimately connected to its constituent Monthly Meetings.

Operations Strengths

The obvious strength is that we have a few devoted volunteers who remain committed to seeing the Quarterly Meeting through the current ebb. They are committed to engaging a process through which we can come out with a shared vision, mission, and action steps to follow.

We also have a staff person who focuses on community organizing. When people ask me what I do for a living, I tell them that I am a community organizer for a group of Quaker congregations in Pennsylvania and Delaware. I focus on developing a robust, sustainable organization that feeds off of and that feeds into a larger, interconnected community of neighborhood Monthly Meetings.

Operations Promising Trends

Richard Bernard of Hockessin Monthly Meeting has agreed to convene the Committee and Leadership Reevaluation Advisory Group (a.k.a. “The CLR”). The group has met once, and it has held the first of several listening sessions on the future of the Western Quarterly Meeting. Two more listening sessions will be held during the Western Quarterly Meeting Business Meeting in September and the Quarterly Meeting at Hockessin Meeting in October. The process this group is leading will be the first step in cultivating a shared vision throughout our Quarterly Meeting. As I wrote in my progress report on Youth Activities, when we bring people together, when we are attentive to the needs and desires of all our Monthly Meetings, and when we take action steps that reflect a collective vision, the numbers take care of themselves.

Conclusion

Friends can see that I carry a vision for community, and yet I think there is more to such a vision. The rest is up to the entire community. What is Spirit moving us to witness? What sort of religious community do we seek to become? How are we led to support each other as we grow together? I am excited to see what comes next.

Appendix A: Youth Activities Coordinator’s Progress Report

As I look back upon the nine months that have passed since I accepted the position of Youth Activities Coordinator, I notice some of our challenges. I can also identify some of our strengths and promising trends. I would like to share these with the Youth Activities Committee and with the larger Western Quarterly Meeting community.

The Challenges

We face three challenges. Firstly, we can improve how we communicate. Secondly, we need a shared vision for the future of our programs for youth. Thirdly, we need to broaden our corps of volunteers.

We need to improve lines of communication between the Youth Activities Committee, the larger Western Quarterly Meeting community, and our constituent Monthly Meetings. Any vision and subsequent action steps made by the Youth Activities Committee alone will fall on deaf ears. I am working to involve as many Friends from as many Monthly Meetings in all the Western Quarterly Meeting communications venues, and we could do more to increase this involvement.

We need a shared vision for the future of our programs for youth. This vision requires the direct involvement of members of Religious Education Committees and other interested members from our Monthly Meetings. Such involvement means developing rela-

tionships directly with interested people from all the Monthly Meetings, and it means bringing together interested folks repeatedly to answer one simple question: “How are we led to support each other in growing together?”

When we bring people together, when we are attentive to the needs and desires of all our Monthly Meetings, and when we take action steps that reflect a collective vision, the numbers take care of themselves. A broadened volunteer core will emerge if we make our programs relevant to our constituents by seeking direction from them.

The Strengths

Firstly, we subscribe to Constant Contact, we have a new website, and I am increasing my relationships with members of all the Monthly Meetings in Western Quarterly Meeting. Our communications capabilities have certainly improved and continue to strengthen.

A second, obvious strength is that we have hired a staff member whose focus is community organizing for youth and for adults. I focus on developing a robust, sustainable program for our youth that feeds off of and that feeds into a larger, interconnected community of neighborhood Monthly Meetings. The good news is that, wherever I visit, I hear profound yearning for a vital community centered on youth and the families they bring. Building such a community will require all of us, and there is a staff person present to aid us in getting there.

Thirdly, we do have a few devoted volunteers from the Youth Activities Committee, and there are many more who’ve contributed to a lively program at Quarterly Meetings. We are on our way to doing great work. Indeed, we are already making steps toward a vital and growing community.

The Promising Trends

We still hold the aim of developing a reinvigorated program for High School age youth, and I am working with a previous Youth Activities Facilitator towards this goal. I will be participating in a 5K run/walk with The Garage Community and Youth Center. A few of our High School students will be present. We have organized one movie night for parents and their children at Kennett Meeting, and a second is planned. The first involved many families and children. We are in the preliminary stages of planning a sleep over for Middle School age youth at the October Quarterly Meeting at Hockessin Meeting. A Religious Education Visioning Session and Faith & Play event is planned for September. We are also continuing with a reinvigorated Roots & Shoots program for children K through 3rd grade and their parents. It is clear we have a great deal of potential for building a robust program for youth. We have only just begun, as they say.

The Friendly News
Western Quarterly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends
P O Box 693
Kennett Square, PA 19348



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
West Chester, PA
Permit No. 433
Address Service Requested

**Contact us with your
ideas, suggestions and
questions:**

Zac Dutton / Coordinator

[coordinator](#)

[@westernquarterquakers.org](#)

Pamela Leland / Co-Clerk

[clerk](#)

[@westernquarterquakers.org](#)

Phone - 610.444.1012 or
443.929.0687. Send content at
any time to us via email or
call us, we'll add it to our
blog, and publish it in our
electronic and
print newsletters.

*Don't be surprised if we
call or email you!*

We are investing in our web-site!!

Check it out !!

You will find ... Contacts, a blog updated daily with
vibrant news about all the communities that make up
our Quarterly Meeting ... our newsletters in PDF
format ... a list of meetings (with information on
Meeting activities) ... resources for Monthly Meet-
ing leaders ... various publications for your enjoy-
ment ... bumper stickers for purchase ... an invita-
tion to join our mailing list ... resources for folks in
search of grants ... a summary of events happening in
our region ... and a Google Calendar link to upload
your activities in our calendar so you'll NEVER be
out of the loop!

Join us. Go to [WesternQuarterQuakers.org](#)

Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/WesternQM](#)

Follow us on Twitter: [@WesternQM](#)