

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

NEWSLETTER

July 2019

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65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067

<http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/>

Meeting for Worship 10:00–11:00

First Day School 10:15–11:00

Linda Jacobs, Clerk

Ed Snyder, Newsletter Editor

This month at YFM

No Business Meeting this month

Jul 14

8:30. Men's Group.

Jul 12

7-9 PM. QPR - Suicide Prevention Training. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, Refer.

Jul 14

12 noon. Witness Ceremony. Join us for a simple remembrance service honoring the individuals lost to suicide included in our flag display. Speaker with lived experience, poems, music and prayer service followed by fellowship and refreshments.

Looking ahead

Sep 7

Flea Market! Save the date! If you've participated in this before, you know what this means to our community, and we look forward to your participation again. If you haven't participated before, we'll be asking for volunteers in various areas shortly.

We are looking for vendors! Spread the word - contact Doreen Boerner-Gage for more info.

Around the Quarter/PYM

Jul 24-28

PYM Annual Sessions at The College of New Jersey

See announcement on last page about the Coordinator position vacancy.

Your Francis and Betty Irwin calendar inspiration for the month

What we most need is the prayer of fervent desire for growth in grace, expressed in patience, meekness, love and good deeds.

Mary Baker Eddy

Bonus quote

Mind that which is pure in you, to guide you to God.

George Fox

Marriage announcement!

Linda Jacobs and Ed Snyder were married in their back yard on Sunday, June 16, in the presence of Ed's kids and grandkids and a few friends/Friends. Save the date July 27 for a celebration party; details to follow.

Newsletters can be found on our website at <http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/news/> Email articles, pictures, book reviews, events to ed@mrplansinc.com.

Year in review

If I can use one word for the year it's community. We have 6 new members and a number of serious new attenders. Besides old familiar faces, Friends who have moved away find a lot of new faces when they come back to visit. Our Meeting is constantly changing and growing.

Last November we hosted Quarterly Meeting. Our program was on gun violence and Nancy Scheible's talk was worthy of traveling to other locations. It was a beautiful autumn day. Our fireplace helped create a warm atmosphere. One visitor continued to come back and became a member.

We hosted our second annual holiday decorating party and catered dinner at the beginning of December. It's a fun event that brings all ages together.

Friday before Christmas was a Candlelight Meeting. I still remember the first one I attended many years ago. For years it had been held on Christmas Eve. Family plans kept more and more people away. It is a calming and inspiring evening. Moving the time from Christmas Eve has made it easier for more people to attend.

In conjunction with Bucks Quarter we have been hosting a blood drive the day after Christmas and late spring. This is one way of helping the community and Red Cross is very pleased with the turnout.

We lost a longtime member of the Meeting. Rosemary Sites was a clerk in the 90s and a very active and welcoming presence until illness kept her away from Meeting. The Memorial reminded those who knew her of the lively life enriching person she was.

Once or twice we had Quaker 8's. Friends gather at different houses for dinner and conversation. Parties were held for new members. Each occasion we get together we become more and more of a family.

Our community isn't only about Sunday. More and more people are part of each other's everyday lives. We get to know each other through Quaker 8's, pot lucks and working together for the good of the Meeting and the community. Someone is always there if you are feeling a bit down or have problems you need help with. It's not only through Pastoral Care. It's individual friendships too.

Religious Education is growing gradually. We have two new families with young people joining the classes. We had a children's book swap this May that brought a lot of families with children to Meeting. Seven families asked to be kept informed of the activities. We will continue with special programs hoping new families are inspired to come to Meeting. A couple of people from outside our community stated that what we have here is exactly what young families are looking for. We need to let them know who we are and how that is true! We can all be part of getting the word out.

The Memorial for the Lost has moved onto a few other Meetings and churches. The gun violence committee is working on a number of programs about suicide. They participated in an awareness walk, the Peyton Heart Project, hosted the movie "The Ripple Effect", and are planning training and a witness ceremony for July.

We are coming full circle on our Flea Market. After a detour, we believe what the Meeting spent over 60 years trying to build is what we will continue. We are working hard to bring it back. If anyone is interested in a table it is only \$25. Tell your friends, family and neighbors. Every year we work hard together but it's a great way we increase community. Working together is fun! Let's all do all we can to make this a successful event.

Query 7. Grounding for Transformed Lives: Peace and Alternatives to Violence

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:

- 1) To recognize and correct the causes of violence?
- 2) To understand the impact of the global military-industrial complex on all aspects of life?
- 3) To increase the understanding and use of alternatives to violence?
- 4) To work toward overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?
- 5) To support the constructive use of authority?
- 6) To promote the sustainability of the earth?

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?

Events Review for Yardley Friends Meeting

The following might be helpful for new folks. Certain events are subject to change.

Weekly – Meeting for Worship and First Day School, Sundays at 10 AM; elevenses (snacks and social time) following Meeting for Worship, except for days when Meeting for Business is held

First Sunday of each month – Committee Meetings following Meeting for Worship and elevenses (certain committees meet only as needed)

Second Sunday of each month – Men’s Group at 8:30; (new) Women’s Group at 8:30; Business Meeting following Meeting for Worship (except May and July)

Third and Fourth (and sometimes Fifth) Sunday of each month – Adult education (except when Quarterly Meeting is in held)

First Saturday following Labor Day – Flea Market

Other activities (as needed or as decided) – Quaker Eights (social dinners, at homes), Potluck dinners (usually with a theme or activity, at the Meetinghouse)

A Discussion of the Adult Discussion Program at YFM

Presumed knowledge is the bane of educators and seasoned Friends alike. Those of us who have been part of our spiritual community for some years will sometimes forget that not everyone with whom we worship enjoys the entirety of our shared experience. One such occasion involved a question about the scope and purpose of our Adult Discussion Program.

The short answer is that our Adult Discussion Program is a discernment process. Our spiritual community uses this time to engage in a fulsome discussion of topics that are of mutual interest at a level more comprehensive than the social intercourse of evenings. This assertion, however, is only part of the story. A far more important aspect is that our adult discussion group facilitates community in-reach; through our participation in the Adult Discussion program, we come to know one another as we jointly explore the ramifications of our shared faith.

To this end, there have been several iterations of the Adult Discussion program at YFM. As with the process of navigation, in order to understand where we are now, and where we are headed, it will be useful to know where we have been. You will, no doubt, be pleased to know that I am limiting the scope of this historical narrative.

In the early part of this century, YFM enjoyed an influx of seekers. As one might expect, these folks had, at best, a smattering of knowledge regarding Quakerism. In response to this circumstance, Steve Davison, a weighty and seasoned Friend (who has since transferred to another meeting) offered a series of lectures regarding Quaker history and the evolution of our Quaker testimonies. Rather than a discussion group per se, Steve's presentation was more along the lines of adult religious education. Once that lacuna of information had been filled, participation seemed to drop off.

Shortly after this seeker had begun attending, Worship and Ministry began offering interviews of some of our more seasoned Friends in a framework that was modeled after the NPR program *This I Believe*. Worship and Ministry hoped that, as some of our elders shared aspects of their spiritual journey, our newer members, attenders, and seekers would discover many of the common threads of spiritual insight and social concerns that bind our community together. At one point, some of our seasoned Friends played the role of historical Quakers and thereby gave voice to many of our guiding testimonies. One memorable gathering occurred when the late Betty Irwin, a thoughtful and seasoned Friend (replete in traditional Quaker bonnet), steadfastly portrayed the abolitionist and Quaker minister Lucretia Mott while our intrepid interviewer struggled to maintain a proper (i.e. "Quakerly") decorum as she posed questions to "Ms. Mott." Of course, over the course of time, we exhausted our supply of seasoned (and historical) Friends, and as one might expect, attendance began to lag.

Another iteration focused on the role of Quakerism in the practice of our civic duty. While we properly abstain from politics in our vocal ministry, we are nonetheless citizens in a participatory democracy. This notion spawned a series of discussions centered around how the practice of our faith – particularly the notions of peace, social justice, and stewardship – impact our views on issues of concern. In this "Quakers as Citizens" era, we looked at the issues such as hydraulic fracture of shale substrate as it pertains to production of natural gas and petroleum; climate change and the evidence which supports the theory as well as the economic impact of action vs inaction; tax inequality issues; the spiraling cost of medical care; and the cost-benefit analysis of investing in a "smart grid" for energy distribution.

We have also taken the time to explore various aspects of Quaker history. We have talked about the schism between Hicksite and Orthodox Quakers and the reconciliation. On this later point, we were (and are) fortunate to have within our meeting Friends for whom the schism and reconciliation is a living memory. We have also talked about notable Friends over a range that spans from John Woolman to Rufus Jones. More recently, we have endeavored to flesh out topics such as Quaker decision making, Quaker etiquette, and how the testimonies and advices of our forebears speak to our time and place in history. Here, I am compelled to note that nothing precludes us from revisiting these, or any other topics mentioned above.

Looking forward, we are optimistic that our focus and format of our Adult Discussion program will continue to evolve in reaction to the perceived needs of our community. At its core, however, our Adult Discussion program will continue to be an instrument of community in-reach that serves to deepen our spiritual bonds.

Capt. Terry Christensen

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends
Position Vacancy**

NOTICE: Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting seeks candidates for the position of Bucks Quarter Coordinator who will work to maintain a sense of community among the meetings comprising the Quarter and assist Friends to utilize the resources available through the Religious Society of Friends.

About the Position: The Coordinator position is a full time position involving regular travel in the Bucks County area. Responsibilities include:

- Involvement with planning and execution of events that provide opportunities for community building throughout the Quarter.
- Visitation of Monthly Meetings throughout the Quarter and a familiarity with the varying issues that each meeting is confronting.
- Dissemination of information of interest or concern to Friends in the Quarter using a monthly e-newsletter and other media platforms.
- Response to personal requests for assistance in accessing the resources of the Religious Society of Friends.
- Reports to Quarterly Meeting on a Quarterly basis and consultation with the Committee of Oversight for the Coordinator on a monthly basis

Requirements of the Position:

- An active Friend or extensive experience with Friends' meetings; knowledge of Quaker principles and practice.
- Ability to work with children, youth and adults, and to facilitate groups to develop their interests, gifts and skills.
- Understanding of inclusivity dynamics, especially in relationship to age, gifts, LGBTQIA+, ability, gender, sexuality, race and class; skill in crisis intervention
- Strong communication skills, including the ability to speak clearly, to listen deeply, and to write well.
- Ability to travel within the Quarter.
- Ability to work a flexible schedule that includes weekend and evening work.
- Clearance to work with children by passing state-required criminal and child abuse background checks.

How to apply: Send cover letter, resume and references to quakersbucks@gmail.com.

ABOUT BUCKS QUARTER: Bucks Quarter is comprised of thirteen meetings centered in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, one of the original counties established by William Penn at the founding of Pennsylvania. In addition to containing some long established meetings, the Quaker heritage of the area is visible in the number of Quaker schools and elder care facilities throughout the county. For further information, go to website at www.quakersbucks.org