

The newsletter of the Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

#### FEBRUARY 2024

#### Dear Friends,

It's snowing!

Bucks County hasn't seen a real snowfall for almost two years! And while I'm sure it's causing some angst for Friends who need to be out and about, I am blessed to work from home, with a scented candle burning and a mug of Earl Grey tea in my hand.

In the past, snow would have meant cancelling workshops and worship. But now, many of our meetings are fortunate to have the power of Zoom, so they don't have to cancel events when it's just too dangerous to drive.

Stay safe Friends, and watch the snowfall from the safety of your warm homes!



Your Coordinator, Wendy

"We can disagree and still love each other unless your disagreement is rooted in my oppression and denial of my humanity and right to exist."

~James Baldwin



## Monthly Meeting News

#### Bristol

Bristol Friends attendance is increasing at their monthly meeting for worship; the average number in attendance is now 18!

#### **Buckingham**

Meeting members have been supporting their school by joining BFS students at their Thursday morning meeting for worship.

#### Doylestown

Worship and Ministry, Pastoral Concerns, and the Peace and Social Concerns Committees will be establishing a rotating schedule for 4th Sunday monthly events in 2024. Watch this space for more information!

#### Fallsington

Friends held two successful events in January: The Spiritual Life of William Penn and social justice singer/songwriter Crys Matthews.

#### Lehigh Valley

Friends are beginning a monthly Pendle Hill pamphlet discussion they are calling "Pamphlets and Pastries"; see page 4 for more details about their January and February offerings.

#### Makefield

Makefield Friends invite everyone from around the Quarter to join them for their Spiritual Enrichment class, each First Day at 11:15; see page 4 for more details.

#### Middletown

Middletown Friend Pat Mervine will be speaking about Boone Farm at Friends Village, Styler Campus, in February. See page 4 of this newsletter for more details.

#### Newtown

Friends have started Prayers for Peace on Fridays from 12-1 at the meetinghouse; email <u>clerk@newtownfriendsmeeting.org</u> for more information.

#### Plumstead

Experience Quaker worship like it was held back in the 1800s - with a blanket on your lap and a crackling fire in the stove. 9:30 am each First Day.

#### Quakertown

Check out the beautiful new website that Quakertown Friends have just launched: <u>quakertownfriendsmeeting.org</u>.

#### Solebury

In January, Solebury Meeting hosted a program featuring photos Friend Don Griffin has taken over several decades of programs at the meeting, providing an opportunity for members to reminisce.

#### Southampton

Friends have started meeting for a shared lunch at the rise of meeting on the fourth Sunday of the month. Quakers love to eat!

#### Wrightstown

Friends have assembled a Green Team to explore renewable energy projects combined with energy efficiency upgrades that will put them on a firmer path to sustainability, both environmentally and financially.

#### Yardley

Their January "Ponderings" topic was: Quakers believe spirituality is about how you live your life and not just about the written word. What constitutes spirituality in your day to day life? Are there other ways you would like to try to bring spirituality into your life?

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	Mar 15-19		Spring Lobby Weekend	Arlington, VA
Jun 30-Jul 6 FGC The Gathering Haverford College, Haverford, PA	Apr 19-21		Spiritual Formation Collaborative Spring Retreat	
	Jun 30-Jul 6			Haverford College, Haverford, PA

	QUARTERLY MEETING @ SOLEBURY			
Hybrid!	Quarterly Meeting for Worship, Fellowship & Business Under the Care of Solebury Friends Meeting 2680 Sugan Road • New Hope, PA 18938 Sunday, February 18, 2024 • 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM			
9:30 am	Arrival & sign in; hot beverages & donuts			
9:45 am	Zoom Room Opens			
	Join the Zoom Meeting			
	Meeting ID: 870 9840 2391			
	Passcode: 338161			
10:00-10:50 am	Meeting for Worship			
10:50-11:15 am	Afterthoughts, Introductions and hymn singing			
11:15 am	<b>Program: Friends Education and its Role in the Health of the Religious Society of Friends</b> Presenters Jeff Markovitz, member of Plymouth Meeting and Co-Clerk of the Friends Collaborative, and Tom Hoopes, head of the Religions Department at George School and member of Newtown Meeting, will each share some of their personal stories in Friends education. Friends will also learn about the Friends Collaborative, a new Quaker organization that focuses on creating scholarship funding for children to attend Friends schools. Since 2016, the Friends Collaborative has provided over \$50 million in financial aid. Friends will be invited to learn about this new organization and its support of not only Friends schools, but of Quakerism as a whole.			
11:15 am	Children's Program: TBD			
12:00 pm	Lunch break: simple lunch of soup, bread, dessert and drinks provided by Solebury Friends			
1:00 pm	<b>Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business</b> Annual reports from Doylestown, Makefield, and Quakertown Meetings, reports from the Outreach Committee and Friends Camp Association as well as preliminary 24-25 budget and quarterly report from the Coordinator. Advance documents will be available soon on the website at www.quakersbucks.org/members			

Please review the minutes from the November, 2023 Quarterly Meeting. They can be found at <u>www.quakersbucks.org/members</u> or by <u>clicking this link</u>.

# BUCKS QUARTER

#### Solebury Friends Meeting

#### The Quaker Sound of Silence

The Winter 2023 issue of *River Towns* magazine has a wellwritten story focusing on Solebury Meeting. The author, Bill Stieg, went to a meeting for worship, spoke to numerous Friends, and even mentions our "You Might Be a Quaker If" outreach cards! To read this fabulous (and very accurate) article, <u>click here</u> and go to page 60.

But there are more Quakers in this issue! Go to page 124 for their "Moment in Time" picture entitled "Calling Mrs.



Michener." The photo of Plumstead Meeting was taken in 1875, shortly after the building was modernized and reduced in size.

Come see Solebury Meeting for yourself at the February Quarterly Meeting on the 18th!

## Wrightstown Friends Meeting



## Season of Friends Summer Program

Season of Friends has announced the introduction of its groundbreaking program, designed specifically for children aged 3-8 with autism and other developmental delays. Embracing neurodiversity as a natural aspect of human

variation, the program offers a nurturing environment that fosters self-discovery, growth, and societal contribution. The program will be held at the Wrightstown Friends Nursery School, located at 535 Durham Rd, Newtown, PA. With limited



spots for 20 participants, the registration for the Season of Friends program opens on January 21st, and will close on March 31st. Interested parties are encouraged to secure their place promptly and direct any inquiries to <u>season.of.friends@gmail.com</u>, or call <u>267-495-7120</u>.

#### Makefield Friends Meeting

#### Spiritual Enrichment/Adult Forum

**Sundays in February:** Makefield Meeting will be listening to the Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Podcast #20 *Fundamental Beliefs of Conservative Friends Truth and Simplicity and The Movement of the Holy Spirit and the Old Serpent*. <u>Click here to listen</u> to the 40-minute podcast. Discussion will occur as we move through the podcast. The discussion begins at 11:15 and is hybrid; <u>click here for the Zoom link to join</u>. This is a great opportunity to learn about other Yearly Meetings and to see how similar we are.

877 Dolington Rd • Newtown, PA

#### Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting

#### Pamphlets & Pastries

The Worship and Ministry Committee of Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting is sponsoring Pamphlets and Pastries at which interested Friends will discuss selected Pendle Hill Pamphlets. On February 24 from 10 a.m. to noon Friends will discuss Beyond Consensus by Barry Morley. On March 23 Friends will discuss The Gathered Meeting by Steven Davison. Each session is a stand-alone session. Bucks Quarter Friends are invited to participate. Please read the pamphlet in advance and come to share insights, discoveries, experiences, and questions. The pamphlets can be ordered through Pendle Hill for \$7.50 plus shipping or they can be downloaded through Amazon onto a Kindle for \$7.00. They can also likely be borrowed from your Meeting library. Bucks Quarter Friends are invited to attend in person at Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse, 4116 Bath Pike, in Bethlehem, PA or via Zoom at a link to be provided after registration. (Sorry no pastries are available for this option!) Register by emailing Cathy Gumlock at cgumlock@aol.com. If you plan to attend in person and will be using the childcare provided at the Meetinghouse, please indicate the number of children and their ages when you register.

#### Yardley Friends Meeting



#### **Childcare Provider Wanted**

Yardley Friends Meeting is looking to hire an experienced child care provider (age 16 or older) who loves taking care of kids and is looking for steady part-time work on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 11:15 am. The pay rate is \$25.00 each Sunday. Interested? <u>Click here to apply.</u>

#### Newtown Friends Meeting



**Thursdays:** Tucker Manchanda is organizing a Quaker Study at Newtown Meeting every Thursday evening, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. They will be starting with an article from *Friends Journal*, and just read through it together and discuss. There's no commitment/formality/expectations/preparation; it will be ongoing and in-person and Friends are welcome to drop by whenever. There will be copies available for whoever shows up. Join them on January 25th or February 1st, and every Thursday!

#### Quaker Women's Social Hour

**Feb 7th**: Join other Quaker women from around Bucks Quarter for a fun "Quappy Hour" from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. This month will be at <u>The Yardley Inn</u>, 82 E. Afton Ave, Yardley. Interested in joining the group? Email <u>quakersbucks@gmail.com</u> to get on the mailing list.

African American Museum of Bucks County

## Building Our Dream with Love Cocktail Reception

**Feb 9th:** This reception will hopefully raise much needed funds to support the ongoing renovations of the historic Boone Farm, their new home. Proceeds from this signature event will enable them to continue with all the necessary renovations and achieve completion of the project in as timely a manner as possible, so they can be fully operational by the end of 2024 or early 2025. They will share updates on the construction and on the fundraising efforts to date. Cost is \$150 per person; <u>click here to</u> purchase tickets.

3001 Street Road • Bensalem, PA 19020

#### Friends Village



Jan 24 & 31; Feb 14 & 28 : Friends Village will be holding a thirty minute mid-week Meeting for Worship from 1:30 to 2:00 pm on the Sun Porch at Styer Hall, located at 331 Lower Dolington Road in Newtown. Friends from around the Quarter are encourage to join them. No registration required - just drop in!

#### Slavery, Friends and Freedom in Bucks County

**Feb 5th**: Patricia Mervine, author of *Boone Farm: Its People and Place in Middletown History,* will reveal the forgotten figures of abolition and the Underground Railroad who once lived all around Bucks County. At one time, Quakers owned enslaved Africans, but when they became enlightened to the immorality of slavery, many became staunch leaders and supporters of the Abolition movement. What caused that change in thinking? Who were the people in Bucks County who helped freedom-seekers? Where did those escaping slavery live and work when they found sanctuary here? The answers will surprise you! <u>Register here.</u>

#### Awaken the Hidden Storyteller

**Feb 7th:** Everyone has a story to tell. Join author and storyteller Robin Moore for this low-stress, fun-filled introduction to finding and telling your life stories. Working with partners and in small groups, Robin will show you his



time-tested techniques for storylistening, storytelling and storycreating. We will dive deep into memories and personal experience to discover how to make the personal universal and the universal personal as we share our stories with one another.

#### Senior Planet/Computer Essentials

**Feb 26th & 28th**: At this Smartphones at a Glance Lecture (Feb 26, 11 am-12:15 pm) you'll learn about popular smartphones on the market and some of their pros and cons. You'll also compare and contrast two of the most popular operating systems: Android and Apple's iOS. At the Getting to Know Your Smartphone Workshop (Feb 28, 11 am-12:15 pm) you'll explore some of the common features of smartphones. You'll learn ways to interact with the touch screen, how to access important controls, and how to search for specific settings. <u>Register here</u>.

331 Lower Dolington Rd • Newtown, PA

#### Paul Robeson, an American Life

**Feb 27th**: Paul Robeson was a bass-baritone concert artist, stage and film actor, professional football player, and activist who became famous both for his cultural accomplishments and for his political stances. Born in Princeton, New Jersey, he was an influential figure in American history. Join us as John Davison presents a personal look at the life of Paul Robeson, a life that reveals the best and the worst about America, its possibilities and its tragedies. <u>Register here</u>.

# In MemoriamYardley Meeting<br/>Marshall SchmidtNewtown Meeting<br/>Nancy StrongNancy StrongMarshallMarshallMarshallMarshallNew Meeting<br/>MarshallMarsh

#### Pennswood Village

**now-Mar 10th**: Wrightstown Meeting member Gwen Kerber will be exhibiting her work entitled "Translating Water" at the Pennswood Village Art Gallery She will also have work in a group exhibit at the Hicks Art Center Gallery at Bucks County Community College from Jan. 17th - March 8th. You can view her work at <u>www.gwendolynkerber.com</u>

#### **Bucks Quakers**

#### **Stories of Vitality**

Read the latest stories from around the Quarter:

- Bucks Quarter Takes Hybrid Meeting on the Road
- Learning to Cook at Bristol Friends Meeting

## AROUND PYM

#### **PYM Sponsored Events**

#### **Extended Worship**

**Feb 3rd:** This month the group will have a virtual meeting on Zoom. The day will follow the usual format of worship from roughly 9:30 to 12:30, and worship sharing from 1:00 until around 2:30 to 3:00, with a lunch break in between. The best way to stay informed is to be placed on an e-mail list to receive Zoom links for this and future Extended Worship meetings; contact Andy Hoover at <u>dandydoover@gmail.com</u>.

#### **Quaker Education Granting Group**

**Deadline Feb 15th**: A reminder that there is tuition aid available for Quaker children in PYM Friends schools. Funding for all grants comes from the National Friends Education Fund (NFEF) and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting endowment income from the Jonathan Rhoads Fund and other PYM education endowments.

Grants are available to children in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting who have at least one parent or legal guardian who has been a member of a local meeting for a full year prior to the academic year of the application. *The family and meeting must complete their sections and send the NFEF form to schools by February 15, 2024*. <u>Download the NFEF</u> <u>Application here</u>.

### Youth Events & Resources

**Winter Family Overnight:** Feb 10th-11th - All families with children in 8th grade and younger are invited to join us at Camp Onas (Ottsville, PA) for a cozy family overnight

focused on building community, sharing meals, intergenerational worship, and lots of fun! Cost is \$15 per adult, and \$10 per child through Grade 8. <u>Register here</u>.



Youth in grades 8 through 12 are invited to participate in a new PYM Young Friends (YF) program! Responding to what we are hearing from current PYM youth, we are seeking to create a program that will focus on engaging with our Quaker faith and living out this engagement in our daily lives. Gatherings will take place twice a month throughout the spring of 2024 - one in-person and one on Zoom each month.



This spring will be a pilot program, with YF participants joining in the co-creation of the ongoing program design. Through workshops, reflections, and discussions, participants will help to shape the YF program going forward. This program will be facilitated by Clare Chalkley and Tara Rubinstein, PYM Young Friends Co-Facilitators. More information will be available at <u>pym.org</u> soon!

#### **Aging Resources**

From Sheila Sorkin, PYM Aging Support Coordinator: As I begin my 3<sup>rd</sup> year with PYM, I am interested in learning more about what Meetings and Quarters have experienced with their aged members. It would be valuable to share the historical and present initiatives within Meetings and Quarters. Aging concerns go beyond those needing support from Aging Assistance Granting Group and Greenleaf. Being thoughtful and listening to the interests and needs of aging friends has grown to ongoing working groups, series of presentations and videos, supportive programming for social and spiritual interactions.

Sharing these experiences with PYM through a series of articles in the PYM News, entitled *"To Brighten Your Day"* has been an ongoing effort. I'd welcome your feedback with identified contact persons for follow-up. Looking forward to learning from your initiatives and sharing throughout PYM. Contact Sheila at <u>ssorkin@pym.org</u> or call (215) 241-7068.

#### **Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities**

The Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities of PYM (previously known as the Indian Committee) is currently looking for additional members. The committee is a granting group whose mission is the support and funding of initiatives which sustain Indigenous communities and which preserve Indigenous cultural heritage. The committee also serves as an educational resource for Friends seeking to understand Indigenous concerns better. Committee meetings are held virtually once a month. For additional information please check the <u>PYM website</u> or contact clerk Tom Armstrong at <u>tarmster@gmail.com</u>.

#### Addressing Racism Collaborative

#### In this new year, we on the Addressing Racism

<u>Collaborative</u> (ARC) of PYM wish you well and want to touch base with you. We will be reaching out to Meetings and Quarters to hear what is happening on your antiracism journey and how we can be of assistance. Please contact your clerk or someone at your meeting that is interested in this issue. You can also contact Wanda Waffles, ARC Clerk at <u>wwyffels@gmail.com</u> or call <u>267-918-3671</u>.

#### Finding Peace in a Tumultuous World

Jan 22nd-Feb 26th: In this 5-week class sponsored by the Friends Counseling Service, you will learn some basic mindfulness meditation practices, as well as some of the teachings underlying this path. Participants will be encouraged to practice meditating between classes. There will be time for questions and practice in each session. Register here.

#### **Employment Opportunity**

**Director of Grant Making:** The Director of Grant Making manages and maintains PYM's grant-making processes, accountable for proper authorization, funding, and timely payment of grants. PYM's granting function distributes approximately \$1 million in grants per year, as described below. The Director works closely with other staff and with volunteer granting groups, ensuring consistency, communications, shared knowledge, and a shared vision. This is a full-time position (35 hours per week on average). Click here for more info or to apply.

## THE GREATER QUAKER WORLD

#### Friends Committee on National Legislation

# Setting Quaker Lobbying Priorities for the 119th Congress

Jan 31st: Every two years, FCNL asks Friends and their meetings, churches, and other groups all over the country to consider which public policy issues they feel are most pressing for the next Congress. As we begin our listening to Quakers in communities across the country, we invite you to join us to learn more about this process, get inspiration on engaging your meeting, and find out how your discernment will shape FCNL's work in the coming years. Bring your questions and get support from our collective wisdom! Register here.

#### **Powell House**

#### Friends Decision-Making & Clerking 2024

**Feb 2nd-4th**: Facilitated by Steve Mohkle, this hybrid workshop is for everyone who wants to deepen their understanding of Quaker decision-making; it's for clerks, but not just for clerks. For clerks, it will be an opportunity to learn and sharpen skills. For others, it's an opportunity to get better grounded in what Quaker decision-making is all about. Each person will leave the weekend with new energy and enthusiasm for participating in meetings for business, well grounded in both the theoretical and the practical. There will be handouts, exercises and opportunities for experience sharing. Register for <u>in person</u> or <u>virtual</u>.

#### Quaker Call to Action

#### A Deeper Dive into Ranked Choice Voting

**Jan 30th**: Join Rob Richie of <u>FairVote</u> and Cynthia Richie Terrell of <u>RepresentWomen</u> for a deeper dive into ranked choice voting and how it can repair and strengthen our democracy. Learn how the National Popular Vote Plan and the Fair Representation Act can transform future Presidential and Congressional elections, and how a growing number of women are being elected to public office in the US. We will be joined on the call by special guest, Rep. Jamie Raskin (MD-8). <u>Register here</u> for the Zoom session. You will receive a zoom link the day before.

#### Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT)

#### Non-Violent Direct Action Online Study Group

Jan 25-Feb 29th: this weekly six-session training is free and open to all who are interested in non-violent action. Topics include: the consent model of power and Bill Moyer's 4 roles of social change; the pillars of support, and how they inform the focus of a campaign; exploring the spectrum of allies, and how it relates to power mapping and sequencing tactics in a campaign; exploring a case study from history. <u>Click here to register</u>.



#### First Monday Lecture

**Feb 5th:** *Truth and Justice: The BlackQuaker Project Challenges Quakerism in the 21st Century* - Dr. Harold D. Weaver Jr. (Hal), Founding Director of the BlackQuaker Project (BQP), seeks to answer the questions: *"If Quakers were so active in the Abolitionist movement, then why are there so few African American Friends today?"* and others pertaining to the Religious Society of Friends in relation to Friends of Color worldwide in the 21st century. This lecture is free but registration is required; <u>click here to register</u>.

#### **February Reading Group**

**Feb 21st**: as part of the leadup to our intergenerational LGBTQ+ Dreaming Sanctuary retreat, we will be reading the classic pamphlet, <u>Marriage: A Spiritual Leading for</u> <u>Lesbian, Gay, and Straight Couples</u> (PHP #308) by Leslie Hill. This is a free online event; <u>register here</u>.

#### Pendle Hill Chorus

Feb 28th: The Pendle Hill Chorus invites new members for an exciting spring season! This season, our music will pay homage to the beauty and promise of Spring, as well as open and lift our hearts and minds to the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who calls us to respond to the challenges of our time, "the fierce urgency of now." Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 7:00pm-8:30pm, on Pendle Hill's campus. The concert will be held on May 8th. There is a \$90 registration fee. Questions? Contact Jackie Coren at jackie.coren@gmail.com.

#### Quaker Religious Education Collaborative

#### Walking in the World as a Friend

**Feb 12th**: In her <u>book</u>, Nadine Hoover lays out the three jobs all Friends take on when they begin to follow the Quaker path–minister, steward, and witness. Each month this four-part series will open with worship and a message from the book *Walking in the World as a Friend: Essential Quaker Practices*. These workshops are virtual; register here.

#### Friends General Conference

#### Poetry as a Spiritual Practice

**Feb 7th**: This workshop invites you to experiment with words as a way to deepen your connection with your Inner Guide. No writing or poetry experience necessary. Just bring yourself and writing materials. There is a \$20 pay-as-led participation fee. <u>Register here</u>.

#### **Virtual Worship for Newcomers**

**Feb 12th**: Are you a newcomer or seeker interested in worshiping with Friends? Join FGC Spiritual Deepening for monthly worship and reflection about this unique spiritual practice! This offering is free, simply <u>register</u> to access the zoom link.

#### **Encountering Spirit Retreat**

**Feb 16th-19th**: This online retreat is a new experimental "unconference" inspired by the spirit of FGC's keystone program, the Gathering, but more spontaneous and less structured than the Gathering. <u>Click here</u> for more information; registration is open; <u>click here to register</u>.

#### Friends Council on Education

#### Friends Meeting-Friends School "Triad" Gathering

**Feb 3rd:** New Date! Friends Council on Education and PYM will co-host a "Triad Gathering" of Clerks of Meetings, Heads of Friends schools, and Clerks of School Committees (Boards of Trustees). The gathering will focus on community and being in relationship. The event will be held at Arch Street Meetinghouse, 320 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA. There is a \$30 registration fee; <u>click here to register</u>.

#### Earlham School of Religion

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#### **Quaker Leadership Center (QLC)**

Starting in late January, the Quaker Leadership Center will be offering a Five-Session Quaker Trustees Training Series. This new online series, facilitated by Emily Provance, is designed to weave together practical tips, spiritual conversation, guest experts and networking to help Friends who are working through some commonly held concerns. Click the links below to register:

Jan 30th 1:00-2:30 pm: <u>Trustees in Quaker Community</u> Feb 27th 1:00-2:30 pm: <u>Policies</u>



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