



Quakerphernalia

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

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Deadline for Quakerphernalia by the 10th day of the preceding month's publication

Visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BucksQuarterlyMeeting/>

JUNE 2020

June 1	7:30 - 9 pm	Planting in an Earthquake: Balancing Patience and Urgency in a Time of Change	Pendle Hill
June 4	4:00 - 4:30 pm	Thursday with Friends: Changemakers Addressing Climate Change	Friends Committee on National Legislation
Jun 5 - 9		Continuing Revolution 2020 Online: Transformative Conflict & Justice ; an annual conference for young adults	Pendle Hill
June 5-26	4:00-5:00 pm	Young Friends Friday Check in	Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
June 13 & 27	1-3 pm	Middle School Friends Hangout	Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
June 18	4:00 - 4:30 pm	Thursday with Friends: Advocating While Social Distancing	Friends Committee on National Legislation
June 20	10 am & 6 pm	2020 Poor People's Campaign	Virtual March on Washington
Jun 28-Jul 4		FGC Gathering - Way Will Open	A Virtual Gathering

LOOKING AHEAD to JULY and beyond

Jul 29-Aug 2		PYM Annual Sessions: Letting Ourselves be Known	A Virtual Gathering
Sept 26	10:30 am - 4 pm	Bucks Quarter Peace Fair	Buckingham Friends Meeting

VIRTUAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Bristol		None available at this time	
Buckingham	Sunday 10:30-11:30 am	Email buckinghamfriends@gmail.com	Zoom link available
Doylestown	Sunday 10-11 am	Email doylestownfriends@gmail.com	Zoom link sent out Saturday evening
Fallsington	Sunday 11 am - 12 pm	Go to fallsingtonmeeting.org	Zoom link available
Lehigh Valley	Sunday 9:30-10:30 am	Go to lehighvalleyquakers.org	Zoom link available
Makefield	Sunday 10-11 am	Email jerry.taylor35@verizon.net	Zoom link available
Middletown	Sunday 11am-12 pm	Email Robin Hipple at robin.hipple@gmail.com	Zoom link available
Newtown	Sunday 11am-12 pm	Go to newtownfriendsmeeting.org	Zoom link available
Plumstead		None available at this time	
Quakertown		None available at this time	
Solebury	Sunday 10-11 am	Go to soleburyfriendsmeeting.org	Zoom link available
Southampton	Sunday 10-11 am Tuesday 7:30 pm	Email John Magee jmm9724@gmail.com	Zoom link available
Wrightstown	Sunday, 10-11 am	Call Betsy Bayardi at 215-598-0248	Zoom link available
Yardley	Sunday 10-11 am Thurs. 7 pm	Email info@yardleyfriendsmeeting.org	Zoom link available
Pendle Hill	8:30-9:10 am	Worship in the Barn	Zoom link available

THANKS



A great big "thank you" to everyone for their patience at our first virtual Quarterly Meeting; apparently the entire Zoom world was down and I was doing my best to let in the 103 Friends that were in the virtual waiting room eager to join the meeting and begin worship. Luckily way opened, and the rest of the meeting went off without a hitch. Some Friends took advantage of the breakout rooms to visit over lunch, others just needed to breakaway before business meeting. Over the 4-½ hour (!!!) meeting we had 113 Friends attending, representing almost all of the meetings in the Quarter. Next Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for August 16 under the care of Newtown Meeting - virtual or in-person remains to be seen!

**2020 Poor People's Campaign
Virtual March on Washington**

There are 140 million poor and low-wealth people in the richest country in the world; The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is building a broad and deep national moral fusion movement - rooted in the leadership of poor people - to unite our country from the bottom up. On June 20, the digital stage is being built for people to join together to hear stories, solutions and songs of the movement leaders and artists.

Participants will receive information on how to go back to their communities to take action together and continue building power among the poor and dispossessed for November's election and beyond.

Locally, PYM has partnered with AFSC to support local community organizing around the Poor People's Campaign. The Quaker Life Council minuted an endorsement of the Poor People's Campaign alongside our Young Adult Friends community. Trenton Friends Meeting recently approved a [Minute in Support of the 2020 Poor People's Campaign](#).

**Camp Onas
2020 Season Cancelled**

Holly & Matt Hecht, Directors of Camp Onas and Stephen Kunkel, Clerk/President of the Board of Directors recently reported that with heavy hearts they made the decision to cancel the entire 2020 season at Camp Onas. In a letter to the community they stated, "*Our priority is to care for and safeguard our community...we are turning our attention toward refunding deposits and payments for the summer... even though it presents significant financial hardship for Camp Onas.*" For more information, or to make a donation, go to camponas.org.



**Going Virtual
FGC Gathering and PYM Annual Sessions**

Due to continuing concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, both PYM and FGC have chosen not to meet in person, but to hold their annual gatherings virtually

FGC Gathering June 26 - July 4

The FGC planning committee has been busy working out the details of transforming their in-person gathering into a virtual one. Registration is expected to be open in late May, however, [you can see the tentative schedule here](#). More program details will be added as they are confirmed.

PYM Annual Sessions July 29 - August 2

This year's 340th Annual Sessions theme is "Letting Ourselves be Known." The Sessions Planning Committee is busy lining up speakers and organizing on-line activities and entertainment where Friends can be in spirit-filled community and remain safe. Registration should be open sometime in June. For more information visit <https://www.pym.org/annual-sessions/>.

In Memoriam

Wrightstown Friends suffered the loss of George Rowe
Lehigh Valley Friends suffered the loss of Kris Gallup

Please let your Coordinator know if there are other Friends whom we have lost that we should acknowledge.

Mercer Street Friends

Nourishing Minds & Bodies; Empowering Families and Communities

9 weeks • 125,000 meals
8,000 weekend emergency food bags
193 volunteers • 1,400 contributors

During the current pandemic Mercer Street Friends has been on the frontlines doing what they do best. For example, on Friday May 15 they distributed 2,170 weekend emergency food bags to individuals and families throughout Trenton and Mercer County. The volunteers are starting to recognize the same faces, week after week. Their staff can now greet some families by name. And the need within the community continues to increase.

The Mercer Street Friends Food Bank channels 2.7 million pounds of food and groceries annually to a network of 80 local food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, meal sites, schools, senior and disabled programs, and low-income housing sites.

Mercer Street Friends has received tremendous support from over 1,400 donors in the past two months and Friends know that their gifts make an incredible impact on the community. They are truly grateful for each one. If you would like to volunteer or donate, please visit their website mercerstreefriends.org.

**Peace Fair 2020
Buckingham Friends Meeting**

The Peace Fair Committee has been meeting and planning the 2020 Peace Fair, which is scheduled to be held from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday, September 26 at Buckingham Friends Meeting.

At the last Quarterly Meeting for Business Friends had a chance to share their concerns about the committee's decision to hold the Peace Fair as planned given the COVID-19 pandemic and the current shelter in place orders from Governor Wolf.

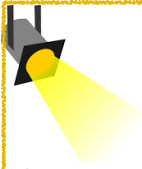
Tim Cunningham, Clerk of the Peace Fair Committee explained that given the uncertainty of the course of the virus, the committee thought it prudent to plan as though restrictions will be lifted by September. He assured Friends that the committee is staying informed with regard to social distancing and shelter in place guidelines and will follow every precaution outlined by authorities. However, if shelter in place restrictions are not lifted, the committee is prepared to cancel the event and refund any vendor deposits received.



Friends agreed that they have faith in the committee's ability to assess the changing global situation and they will act responsibly.

**A Request from a friend of a Friend
A short term, temporary rental**

"Hello, I am in my late 60s and travel to Warminster once or twice a month, for one to three days at a time. A Friend in Virginia suggested I contact Bucks Quarter Friends to see if someone in the area has a room with a bath or mother-in-law suite that is not currently being used. If yes, please reply to me, Diana Woodall at 301-745-8845 (landline) or email me at dianachange@gmail.com. Thank you!



Spotlight On Quakertown Meeting

Benchmark

As an attender at Quakertown Monthly Meeting for about two years, I volunteered to digitize old Meeting Minutes from 1957 up to the present for archiving at the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore. This turned out to be a good project during New Jersey's shelter in place moment, and also enabled me to get to know earlier members of the Meeting through their thoughts and activities. One day I discovered an interesting letter in the 1991 folder containing paper copies of Minutes.

Dated May 20, 1991 and addressed to Visalia Monthly Meeting in California, the letter began with "At the request of Friend Ernest Sanger, we are sending you one of the benches from our Meeting House to become part of yours and a model for others. We know that meetings are people and not stones or planks, but there can be something in the physical structure itself which adds to the quality of the gathering therein. We trust that some of the love and togetherness which we feel when we are gathered in our Meeting House may have been absorbed by this bench and that it will in its own way add to the quality of yours."

Wow, what a beautiful sentiment! The letter went on to give a little of QMM's history and concluded with "We have sent you these two gifts, Ernest Sanger and the bench he asked for in your name—a good Quaker and a good Quaker bench. Both are built for utility and built to last. Neither has any false pretensions to style. Both can be very comfortable, requiring only an occasional shift in position to accommodate the uniqueness of the design. Both the Quaker and the bench are solid examples of their kind, and represent the best work of their respective

Makers. We consider both of them, the bench and Ernest Sanger, good examples to copy, and commend them to your loving care."

The letter was signed by George Engeman and Robin Meaker. I was eager to know the back story regarding this so I put the word out to several long time members. Doug Meaker filled in the gaps. He said that Ernest and Esther Sanger, plus their daughter Beth and husband Bill Lovett were two of the families that restarted QMM in the late 1950s. After his wife died, Ernest moved out to Visalia to be near Beth and her family. But, rather than waste space here, you can learn all about the Lovetts, the Sangers, and their relationship to the Visalia Meeting here: <https://www.quakeroaksfarm.org/about-us/>

I wondered if the bench from QMM was still at Visalia Meeting so I googled them. On their home page (<http://visaliaquakers.org/>) I found a photo of the interior of their Meeting House. To the right of the fireplace, under the window, sits QMM's bench, a long way from home but it obviously fulfilled its mission, and it appears happy and settled in with its newfound Friends, benches and people. I want to leave you with a lovely thought that Doug shared in his reminiscences about visiting the Lovetts and Ernest Sanger in California: "The Lovetts had peacocks and the Meetinghouse had one glass wall. We weren't there for Meeting for Worship but were told the peacocks would put on a display during MFW which rather broke it up."

So, if you are feeling down about not being able to get to your MFW and socializing with other Friends, think of a humble bench that traveled from one coast to another to spread love and fellowship, and marvel at peacocks spreading their jewel-toned feathers for worshippers to witness while waiting in silence for a message.

By Marty Campanelli

Around the Quarter

Since last month **Makefield Meeting** has begun having weekly virtual Meeting for Worship, followed by Adult First Day School. They welcome all Friends to join them.

Lehigh Valley Meeting is doing a great job keeping their community connected and socially active:

- They are developing plans for a Lehigh Valley Jail Release Assistance Fund, designed to provide bail and short-term housing aid to those who remain incarcerated because they are unable to cover those costs. The need for these funds has become particularly urgent to help relieve dangerous overcrowding in local jails during the pandemic. We will initially focus on the Northampton County Jail, and also hope to be able to work with the Lehigh County Jail eventually.

- Worship & Ministry hopes to expand virtual meetings for worship to include a mid-week gathering every other Wednesday. One focus of these meetings will be on healing and holding people in the Light.

- To increase information-sharing and strengthen the sense of spiritual connection within the Meeting, an informative "Light Board Message" is emailed to members and attenders twice each week.

Newtown Meeting was one of the first meetings to go virtual, and has continued to have robust Meeting for Worship as well as Adult First Day School. They have kept the children of the meeting connected by having a 15 minutes check-in before worship.

As a way to continue to enjoy and build community, a virtual "eat and meet" is being held every Friday evening, where Friends "share" a community meal and conversation, followed by fun and games that are easy to play for both young and old.

Buckingham Meeting has also joined other meetings around the Quarter by having weekly virtual Meeting for Worship.

Yardley Meeting Friends are staying connected with each other via their Google Group. Friends post requests for assistance, musings, updates on health, inspirational music and pictures from their ongoing lives during shelter in place. Their monthly newsletter also provides news and inspiration:

*Subtle movement
Gentle breeze
Gray clouds moving in
The earth is calm
Beneath raging disease*

~ Linda Jacobs-Snyder

When you talk, you are only repeating what you already know. But if you listen, you may learn something new.

Dalí Lama XIV

Friendly Services Offered and Friendly Services Needed

“Simply Real” News is Growing!

Published monthly with Quaker Values

Times Publishing Newspapers, Inc. has rolled out with our ninth newspaper in Bucks County - the Fairless FOCUS. Covering the Fairless Hills area our new total mailed (via US Postal Service) circulation is 115,716 households and businesses. We cover “all the ‘good news’ that’s fit to print.” Over the past 18 years we’ve started and continue to publish these additional 8 monthly publications: Yardley VOICE, Morrisville TIMES, Newtown GAZETTE, Northampton HERALD, Lower Southampton SPIRIT, Langhorne LEDGER, New Hope NEWS, and the Doylestown OBSERVER.

Donna Allen, Publisher: 215-702-3405
www.timespub.com - (updated daily)

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Ad Space Available!

Do you have a Friendly business you want Friends to know about? Are you in need of a Friendly service? Let Friends know by advertising in this newsletter. You do not need to be a member of Bucks Quarter, but you do need to be a member or attender of a meeting. The rate is \$260 for 12 months or \$40 monthly.

MRP Plans, Inc.

Retirement Plan Services

Ed Snyder, a member of Yardley Meeting, is a Certified Pension Consultant/Qualified Pension Administrator and offers retirement plan services to small businesses - plan design and installation, and annual third party administration. If you're thinking about a 401(K) or similar retirement plan for your small business or have a plan but don't understand it, Ed is the one to call.

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Email: ed@mrplansinc.com

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Email: msnyder@superiorbenefitplans.com

Marybeth Snyder, CEBS, CLU

Tel: 610-722-9900/215-693-6303

Do you Have Questions about Hospice?

Lisa Wildman, a member of Doylestown Meeting, is a licensed Social Worker with **Brookdale Hospice**. The Gift of Hospice benefits the patient, and loved ones by providing symptom management, emotional support, and spiritual support. The Brookdale Hospice team includes the loving service of Nurses, Social Workers, Chaplain, Aides, Music Therapist, Massage Therapist and Volunteers. If you or a friend wants to learn more about hospice care, call **Brookdale Hospice at 610-337-1101**.

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Update Your Contact information!

Have you moved recently? Changed your email address? Started using you cell phone as your primary number? The yearly meeting wants to know! Go to www.pym.org/yourinfo and update your contact information. And while you're at it, send it to quakersbucks@gmail.com so the Coordinator will have the update as well.