

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

MAY 2024

#### Dear Friends,

A couple of weeks ago I travelled to Maine to see my eldest daughter and to view the total eclipse of the sun. I had been planning this visit since I realized that the path of totality would pass right near where my daughter lived.

Friends asked "what happens if it's cloudy and you can't see anything?" My response was "then I will have a nice visit with my daughter."

We were fortunate to have perfect 65 degree weather and a clear blue sky. When the moon passed in front of the sun and I got to see the corona for over 2 minutes. I was filled with such a sense of awe and wonder. It was



experience never to be forgotten.

> Your Coordinator, Wendy

"And if we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity."

~ John F. Kennedy, Jr.



# Monthly Meeting News

#### Bristol

Things are hopping at Bristol Meeting! They held a successful Tree Celebration in April and are looking forward to celebrating World Labyrinth Day in May.

#### Buckingham

Buckingham Friends are looking forward to the warmer weather so that they can once again hold meeting for worship in their burial ground.

#### **Doylestown**

The meeting held an Easter breakfast this year, and work has begun on the meeting vegetable garden; planting will begin once the threat of frost has passed.

# Fallsington

Fallsington Friends hosted singer/songwriter John Flynn as part of their social justice concert series.

# Lehigh Valley

Friends are looking ahead and planning a meeting-wide community retreat in 2025. They are also celebrating their 75th anniversary of being a monthly meeting this June.

# Makefield

Makefield Friends held a successful Spring Celebration concert featuring Paige Melton, who also happens to live in the meeting's caretaker's house.

# Middletown

Middletown Friends continue to hold a midweek in person meeting for worship on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm at their meetinghouse on Maple Avenue in Langhorne.

#### Newtown

With the onset of spring, Newtown Friends are turning their thoughts to landscaping on the property after their successful parking lot renovation.

#### **Plumstead**

Plumstead Friend Carol Ann Gray was the featured speaker at the Plumstead Historical Society's April Meeting. She spoke about early Quakers and meetinghouse architecture and how it relates to our testimonies.

# Quakertown

Quakertown Friends gave their meetinghouse the best spring cleaning it has had in a very long time - you can see out the windows now! They report having no damage from the recent earthquake in NJ.

# Solebury

Friends recently had damage to their shed's roof from a falling tree; they are in the process of getting permits and locating vintage wood for the repair.

# Southampton

Southampton Friends spent a day live staking trees on their property.

# Wrightstown

The April topic of the Spiritual Exploration Group was Forgiving, where they considered individual capacities to forgive, and the teachings and experiences that inform individual beliefs about forgiving.

# **Yardley**

Friends just applied for and received a Bucks Quarter Outreach grant to fund a Gratitude Day that will be held in June.

		CALENDAR	
Apr 28	12:15-2:00 pm	Spiritual Life Program	Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting
Apr 28	11:15 am–12:15 pm	Legacy Giving: Let Your Life Speak	Solebury Friends Meeting
Apr 28	10:00–11:00 am	Living in a Time of War: Gaza/Israel Revisited / Ukrainian Refugees in our Community	On Zoom: Fallsington Friends Meeting
Apr 29	11:00 am-12:15 pm	Senior Planet: Computer Essentials	Friends Village Styer Campus
May 2	11:00 am–1:00 pm	<u>Meeting for Worship with Attention to Leadership for a</u> <u>Livable Future</u>	In person event sponsored by EQAT
May 2-5		Living Our Testimonies in the "Fierce Urgency of Now	Pendle Hill Quaker Institute
May 4	11:00 am-4:00 pm	Celebrating 300 Years of History	Wrightstown Friends Meeting
May 4	2:00-4:00 pm	Celebrating World Labyrinth Day	Bristol Friends Meeting
May 5	5:00–7:00 pm	Fair Hill Spring Renewal Celebration	Historic Fair Hill
May 6	7:30–9:00 pm	Graffiti as Witness: The Art and Activism of a Quaker <u>Pirate</u>	Pendle Hill First Monday Lecture
May 7	7:00-8:00 pm	Religious Education Community of Practice Check-in	A PYM Virtual Event
May 9	7:00-8:30 pm	Climate Cafe: a place for support and to report	PYM Climate Witness Stewards
May 9	5:30–7:00 pm	The Radical Empathy of Anthony Benezet	Arch Street Meetinghouse
May 11-12		Spring Family Overnight at Camp Dark Waters	PYM Youth Programs
May 11-25	12:00–5:00 pm	An Invitation to Quaker Eldering 2024	Online at Powell House
May 13-Jun 26	2:00–2:00 pm	Yoga for Seniors	Friends Village Styer Campus
May 15	7:00–8:30 pm	Pendle Hill Reading Group	A Pendle Hill virtual event
May 18	4:00–6:00 pm	Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples	Friends Peace Teams
May 19	9:30 am-3:00 pm	Bucks Quarterly May Meeting	Southampton Friends Meeting
May 19	3:00-4:30 pm	PYM Young Friends – New Program!	Online gathering
May 26	7:00-8:00 pm	Inclusion & Belonging in Quakerism	Arch Street Friends
May 30	1:00–2:00 pm	Peace Pole Commemoration	Pennswood Village
		ONGOING EVENTS	
May 4	9:30 am–3:00 pm	PYM Extended Worship	Virtual Only
May 8 & 22	1:30–2:00 pm	Midweek Meeting for Worship	Friends Village Styer Campus
Every Sunday	4:00–5:00 pm	Southampton Meeting Vigil for Justice	Southampton Friends Meeting
		LOOKING AHEAD	
Jun 22	11:00 am-3:00 pm	2024 Friends are Fun Picnic	Tohickon Valley Park
Jun 29	10:00 am-4:30 pm	Happy 400th Birthday George Fox	Arch Street Meetinghouse
Jun 30-Jul 6		Friends General Conference: The Gathering	Haverford College
Jul 6-7		PYM Annual Sessions	Haverford College



Hybrid!	Quarterly Meeting for Worship, Fellowship & Business Under the Care of Southampton Friends Meeting 710 Gravel Hill Road • Southampton, PA 18966 Sunday, May 19, 2024 • 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM		
9:30 am	Arrival & sign in; hot beverages & finger foods		
9:45 am	Zoom Room Opens		
	Join the Zoom Meeting		
	Meeting ID: 848 3395 5995		
	Passcode: 609530		
10:00 am	<b>Program: Racial Justice: Persistence and Direction</b> George Floyd's murder almost 4 years ago, coming as the pandemic was laying bare implicit racism in the culture, sparked a vibrant public conversation about how black lives needed to matter before all lives could. Quakers in our Quarter responded with a number of public "vigils." The vigil at Southampton Friends Meeting has persisted, but has struggled with discerning the direction of the Meeting's corporate action to promote racial justice. Join us in delving into the process of sustaining efforts to combat racial injustice despite the natural tendency to move on to more "pressing" concerns. Kevin Young of the Bucks County Anti-Racism Coalition will speak briefly on the topic of the program, followed by a panel of vigil participants who will speak to their motivation for sticking with the vigil and benefits derived from long term attendance.		
11:00 am-noon	Meeting for Worship		
12:00 pm	Lunch break: bring a bag lunch; beverages provided by Southampton Friends		
1:00 pm	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Annual reports from Bristol, Buckingham, Fallsington and Lehigh Valley Meetings, reports from the Oversight Committee and Budget & Nominating. Advance documents will be available soon on the website at <u>www.quakersbucks.org/members</u> .		

Please review the minutes from the February, 2024 Quarterly Meeting.

They can be found at <u>www.quakersbucks.org/members</u> or by <u>clicking this link</u>.

# BUCKS QUARTER

Bucks Quarter

# **Stories of Vitality**

Read the latest stories from around the Quarter:

- <u>Friends Village: A Unique Community</u>
- <u>A Peace Pole Far From Home</u>
- <u>Buried "Treasure" Found at Fallsington Friends Meeting</u>
- Lehigh Valley Friends Have Reasons to Celebrate

# Quaker Women's Social Hour

**May 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 Margaritas Mexican Restaurant 198 N Bucks Town Dr, Langhorne. Interested in joining the group? Email <u>quakersbucks@gmail.com</u> to get on the mailing list.

# Bristol Friends Meeting

# World Labyrinth Day

**May 4th:** Come and celebrate the newly installed labyrinth at Bristol Friends meetinghouse, 235 Market Street, Bristol. <u>Check the website</u> for more details soon.

# Fallsington Friends Meeting

# Living in a Time of War: Gaza/Israel Revisited/ Ukrainian Refugees in our Community

**Apr 28th**: Join us for a presentation by Jim and Debbie Fine (zooming from Washington State) on Gaza and Israel on the present situation and the road ahead. Zhenya Pevzner will have resources on hand about how to support Ukrainian refugees in our community. We will explore ways to navigate the news when trying to understand these tragic conflicts and ways that Friends' organizations are providing humanitarian aid. <u>Click here for the zoom link</u>.

# Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting

# **Spiritual Life Program**

Apr 28th: Joyce Hinnefeld will introduce the work of Shining Light (www.shining-light.com), a Pennsylvaniabased organization that works with incarcerated individuals in multiple states, "providing innovative, evidence-based reentry programming that transforms the lives of participants and prison environments, resulting in lower recidivism, better neighbors, and stronger communities." Joyce works as a facilitator with the Shining Light Academy program, which features class sessions addressing character strengths, creative writing, playwriting, and more, and culminates in the creation of "Wellness Recovery Action Plans," or WRAPS. She also helps with creative writing pages for Shining Light's bimonthly magazine, The Loop. We will view some of Shining Light's powerful videos and perhaps listen to excerpts from recent episodes of the podcast Chainz 2 Changed, produced at the North Dakota State Penitentiary, featuring several members of the Shining Light staff. Founder Jeff Bohn and other staff members may join us as well, if schedules allow. Click here for the zoom link.

# Solebury Friends Meeting

# Legacy Giving: Let Your Life Speak

Apr 28th: Join Solebury Friends for an informative presentation on how to have your legacy live on, given by Mimi Blackwell, Director of Philanthropic Services at Friends Fiduciary. Mimi Blackwell is a seasoned planned giving



professional with Friends Fiduciary who will provide an informative free workshop about the basics and benefits of bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable trusts, and socially responsible investing. You don't need to be wealthy a "certain age" to make a legacy gift, you just need a plan!

2680 Sugan Road • New Hope, PA

# Yardley Friends Meeting

# **Looking for Flea Market Volunteers**

Yardley Meeting is looking for some extra helpers for our Flea Market on Saturday, September 7. The flea market is a great community event where a lot of people appreciate an event hosted by Quakers. Our numbers are a bit smaller now and we



can use help mainly with parking, working in the food area, setting up and breaking down. If interested, contact Linda Jacobs Snyder at linda6stn@gmail.com.

# Wrightstown Celebrates 300 Years of History Saturday, May 4th

Please join us for Wrightstown Friends' 300th birthday celebration! Come and see the historic meetinghouse, listen to music from local group Fools & Prophets and be entertained by the Give and Take Jugglers. A highlight of the celebration will be the chance to



meet "Edward Hicks," the renowned painter famous for "The Peaceable Kingdom," who was a member of the Wrightstown Quaker community from 1814-1820. This immersive experience will bring history to life, connecting attendees with the vibrant past of the Wrightstown Friends Meeting.

The event is free and open to the public. Guests are encouraged to wear comfortable walking shoes and bring lawn chairs to enjoy the day's festivities in comfort. This is a rain or shine family friendly event.

Questions? Contact Lois Wilson, Celebration Clerk, Wrightstown Friends Meeting email: wrightstown.mm.clerk@gmail.com or call (215) 262-2356.

535 Durham Road • Wrightstown, PA

# Wrightstown Friends Meeting



Apr 27th: enjoy an online and in-person auction to benefit WFNS, which is under the care of Wrightstown Friends Meeting. The online auction opens April 19th and the in person auction is from 5-7 pm on April 27th.

# Friends Village



# **Senior Plant: Computer Essentials**

Apr 29th: This 5-week course covers the essentials of how to use the basic functions of a personal computer, how to navigate the internet, and how to send and receive email. By the end of the course, you'll have a foundation for using a computer and the internet to enrich your life. Prerequisites: A Gmail address. Though this course is best suited for people who have had some experience using the internet on any device, help can be provided for those with less experience. If you need help setting up a Gmail address, please call the Senior Planet hotline: 888-713-3495.









# **Yoga For Seniors**

**May 13-Jun 26**: Mondays and Wednesdays for 7 weeks. Led by Joe Simek, an Internationally Certified Yoga Therapist and a 500-Hour Level Yoga Teacher. As the co-owner of Dragonfly Yoga in Doylestown, Joe brings a wealth of experience, with a practice deeply rooted in contemplative traditions, including two decades as a practicing Quaker. Participants of all ages are welcome to enroll in the program for \$100 per seven-week session, or opt for a pay-as-you-go option at \$20 per class. For further details or registration, interested individuals are encouraged to reach out to Laura Hornyak at (215) 968-3346 extension 200 or visit www.friends-village.org/yoga.

331 Lower Dolington Rd • Newtown, PA

#### Pennswood Village



#### Peace Pole Commemoration

**May 30th**: Pennswood Village will commemorate the replacement of its original peace pole. The new, six-sided cedar pole with replaceable, plexiglass plaques will represent the original message "May Peace Prevail On Earth" in 12 languages. Following a brief outdoor ceremony, Mira Nakashima, American architect and furniture maker, will be the primary speaker in Penn Hall. She will speak about her father's vision for Altars of Peace on every continent as well as the work of the <u>Nakashima Foundation for Peace</u>.

1382 Newtown-Langhorne Rd • Newtown, PA



# Doylestown Friends Meeting Statement on the Violence in Gaza and Israel

As Quakers who worship that of God in every person of all religious and national affiliations, we are heartbroken by the unceasing atrocities and dehumanizing brutality perpetuated in Gaza and in Israel.

We condemn both the violent Hamas attack and the indiscriminate Israeli response, given the large disparity between the resources of both groups. Together we mourn the loss of each child, each civilian, each soldier, and we grieve for those suffering from the trauma inflicted by terror and bombardment. We pray for the safe return of hostages and for the preservation of Palestinian and Israeli families.

No peace can ever be achieved through violence; therefore, we call for an immediate cease-fire and for a more vigorous commitment to productive diplomacy. This enduring conflict bears witness to the world that hostility breeds only displacement, hunger, injury, more hostility, and everwidening global instability. Immediate humanitarian aid must reach those living in ever-present peril.

We call upon our government to cease supplying arms and to employ every diplomatic effort to ensure the transport of basic human provisions and medical aid for everyone in dire need. We call for Friends to never cease listening to all voices. Recognizing that the underpinnings of this multifaceted conflict lie deeply rooted in past harm, we call upon all governments and international agencies to begin the long, difficult, but essential process of peacebuilding. We applaud the efforts of both Palestinian and Israeli peace-building groups who continue their efforts amid the most grave circumstances. We are aware of and affirm the process of the South African government in bringing the issues of genocide to the International Court of Justice.

Peace is the highest form of justice, and as Quakers, we answer the call of our testimony to pursue that peace.

# **New Members**

Bristol Middletown Quakertown Solebury Yardley Joe Stallone Gene Sonn Jennifer Cusak David Orphanides Amy Olexa Cash Hammer

# In Memoriam

Newtown Cha





# AROUND PYM

# **PYM Sponsored Events**

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# **Extended Worship**

**May 4th:** 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>.

# **PYM Young Friends - New Program**

May 3rd & 19th: Youth in grades 8 through 12 are invited to participate in a **new** PYM Young Friends pilot program where we are seeking to create a program that will focus on getting to know other teens, building community, and having fun together! Gatherings will take place twice a month throughout the spring, with some in-person and some on Zoom. Please share this flyer with your community!

Workshops will focus on topics such as Environmental Advocacy, Conscientious Objection, Queer Theology, and other topics of interest to Young Friends as they seek to live out their Quaker faith in the world. As they will be providing ministry – sharing their time and energy in the development of this program – a stipend will be offered. In return, we ask them to commit to a sustained and thoughtful involvement throughout the spring. Locations of in-person gatherings are TBD and will take travel for participants into account. <u>Register here</u>.

#### Program Schedule

May 3 to 5 – <u>Camp Swatara Weekend!</u> Sunday, 5/19, 3 to 4:30 PM (online) Saturday, 6/1, 10 AM to 2 PM (in-person) Sunday, 6/9, 3 to 4:30 PM (online)



# Spring Family Overnight at Camp Dark Waters

**May 11th**: Families with children in 8th grade and younger are invited to join us for a Spring Family Overnight at Camp Dark Waters! There will be activities for the whole family, community meals, free time to play, bedtime stories, multigenerational worship on Sunday morning, and a chance for adults to spend time with other parents. <u>Register</u> <u>here</u>. For more information, please contact Kristin Simmons, Youth Engagement Coordinator at <u>ksimmons@pym.org</u>

# **Religious Education Community of Practice Check-in**

**May 7th**: Friends are invited to join in on conversations for anyone serving on religious education committees, working with children and youth in their meeting, and people who

are parents or caregivers. These are casual gatherings where we can share ideas, resources, and questions. Facilitated by Melinda Wenner Bradley, Director of Program and Religious Life. <u>Click here to register</u>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

# **Creating a Playbook for Climate Action**

The updated Playbook for Climate Action was shared at Spring Continuing Sessions. <u>Click here to access a digital</u> copy. Individuals, households, meetings and groups in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting are invited to use this tool filled with a stock of ideas, tactics and plans to create their own game plan for addressing climate change.

# Climate Cafe: A Place for Support and to Report

**May 9th**: Climate Witness Stewards invite all interested Quakers in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to join us to share climate action information and hope from your meeting. Some Monthly Meetings have already designated liaisons to share information about how their Meeting is acting to mitigate the climate crisis. Whether your Meeting has a climate liaison yet or not, we warmly invite you to join us for the next online potluck to share both climate activities and needs. <u>Click this link to register</u>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Arch Street Meetinghouse

Arch Street

# The Radical Empathy of Anthony Benezet

May 9th: The acknowledged father of the transatlantic movement to abolish slavery, Benezet used the persecution he had suffered to inform his perspective on "others." He became a champion of not only African Americans, but of women, indigenous people, disadvantaged humans and also animals. Hear how this devoted Quaker connected his outsized compassion with a clear-eyed strategy to change the world. This is an in-person event and there is parking available behind the meetinghouse; <u>register here</u>.

320 Arch Street • Philadelphia, PA

Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia

# Inclusion & Belonging in Quakerism

May 26th: During this program facilitated by Inaara Shiraz, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Inclusion and Belonging Coordinator, we will explore ways in which Friends can center ourselves in the practice of inclusivity and belonging. We will explore the topics of community building and engaging with each other through a framework of love. No prior registration required. Please note that the Zoom link for the event will go live on <u>archstreetfriends.org/calendar</u> the day of the event.

# THE GREATER QUAKER WORLD

# Pendle Hill

# Community Evenings in the Pendle Hill Art Studio

**now thru May 9th**: No registration required! Join us for Thursday Community Evenings in the Art Studio this spring!

# Quaker Institute: Living Our Testimonies in "The Fierce Urgency of Now"

**May 2nd-5th**: An on-campus gathering to explore how we can meet this political moment as Friends, individually and collectively. As we face the illumination and escalation of longstanding structures of violence both in the U.S. and globally, and prepare for the 2024 US elections, Pendle Hill invites to explore the role of our communities in the context of our current political moment. Cost ranges from \$250 to \$750; <u>register here</u> for commuter; <u>register here</u> for housing.

# **First Monday Lecture**

**May 6th:** *Graffiti as Witness: The Art and Activism of a Quaker Pirate.* Join Friend Todd Drake as he shares his lifelong journey and witness as a visual artist and social justice activist. He will speak to how he has been shaped by this practice, from making art with children in the West Bank to posting graffiti on the streets of New York City. <u>Register here</u>.

# **May Reading Group**

**May 15th**: this group focuses on Pendle Hill pamphlets and other Quaker readings. This month we will be reading the pamphlet, <u>Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions? A Quaker</u> <u>Zionist Rethinks Palestinian Rights</u> (PHP #445) by Steve Chase. This pamphlet, written in 2017, explores the author's discernment journey from being a well-meaning, but illinformed Zionist to someone who began listening to the voices of Jewish and Israeli dissidents, as well as the voices of nonviolent Palestinian resisters to the US-backed Israeli system of military occupation and apartheid. <u>Register here</u>.

# Earth Quaker Action Team



# Meeting for Worship with Attention to Leadership for a Livable Future

**May 2nd**: Vanguard continues to be the world's number one investor in fossil fuels, with about \$269 billion invested in fossil fuel companies and over \$180 billion invested in fossil fuel expansion alone. Under the leadership of CEO Tim Buckley, it has also decreased support for environmental and social justice action at the companies in which it invests, and defended leaving its largest climate commitment. Now that Buckley has announced he will retire at the end of 2024, Vanguard has an important opportunity to change course. Quakers, other people of faith, and those committed to the kind of leadership needed to create a livable planet for all of us will join together for a worshipful action to pray that Vanguard seize this opportunity. All are invited to join us! To participate in person Vanguard headquarters in Malvern, PA, register here.

#### Historic Fair Hill

HISTORIC FAIR HIL community • early literacy • greening

# **Spring Renewal Celebration**

**May 5th**: Come to an evening of friendship while supporting our literacy, greening, and community programs. All proceeds will directly benefit our work to promote childhood literacy, alleviate food insecurity, and share a peaceful green space with our neighbors. In addition to hors d'oeuvres, drinks and good company, enjoy a special performance from the American Historical Theater, featuring Abolitionist and Women's Rights Activist "Lucretia Mott." Cost is \$75 per person; <u>purchase tickets here</u>.

# **Powell House**

# An Invitation to Quaker Eldering

May 11, 18 and 25th: In this experiential workshop, we will explore the gifts of elders, playing with the many facets of eldering as a spiritual gift. We welcome to this workshop all who are curious about what it means to be a Quaker elder today, and those who would like to encourage this ministry in the meeting. <u>Register here</u>.

# Friends Peace Teams

# **Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples**

**May 18th**: Learn the real history of our country through the voices of Native people, European colonists, and historians and understand why this history matters to all Americans today. This is an online event with a suggested donation of \$20-\$50; <u>click here to register</u>.

# Friends General Conference

# The 2024 Gathering: Rooted in Story

**Jun 30th-Jul 6th**: Mark your calendars! The FGC Gathering is being held on the campus of Haverford College, allowing local Friends to commute to this year's event!



Early registration thru April 23rd

There are a <u>wide array of</u> <u>workshops</u> available to attend. <u>Costs are posted on the website</u> and many monthly meetings have conference grants to help defray the cost. You can also <u>apply for a work grant</u>. Early registration open, and closes on **April 23rd**. <u>Click here to sign up</u> <u>for the Gathering email list</u>.



# FRIENDLY SERVICES

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