

Reading Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

January 2017 Newsletter

“Centering prayer is not just a method. It is true prayer at the same time, a prayer of consenting to God’s presence and action within. Its primary scriptural basis is Jesus’ wisdom saying in Matthew 6:6 ‘If you want to pray, enter your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is in secret and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.’ ”

- *Open Mind, Open Heart*, Ch, 2, Thomas Keating,

January 2017 Calendar

First Day, 1/15 Opening Exercises, 10am, Meeting for Worship, 10:15am

Saturday, 1/21 Keystone Two-Day Sacred Harp Convention begins at Sonlight River Brethren School, Mount Joy, PA. For more contact Peter Frank or see pennsylvaniasacredharp.com for flyer

Monday, 1/23 Friendly Readers meet at Chris Field’s home, 6:30pm to discuss Thomas Keating’s [*Open Heart, Open Mind*](#).

Thursday, 1/26 Worship and Ministry meets at 6:30pm in the Penn Room. Jim Hiatt, contact

Saturday, 1/28 Memorial service for Trina-Liv Weyman, 2pm at Reading Meeting House

First Day, 1/29 Extended Meeting for Worship, 10am—11:15am (no Opening Exercises)

February 2017 Calendar

First Day, 2/5 Meeting for Worship will be followed by Potluck.

Monday, 2/6 Berks Peace Community meets at 7pm at the Meetinghouse.

First Day, 2/12 Meeting for Worship will be followed by Meeting for Business.

Tuesday, 2/14 RMM and Exeter Meeting prepare supper for Opportunity House folks at 6pm. Volunteers welcome. Beth Finlay, contact.

First Day, 2/19 Caln Quarter will meet at Downingtown Meeting. Details to follow

Tuesday, 2/21 Peace and Social Concerns Committee will meet at 7PM in the Penn Room. Blair Seitz or Peter Frank, contact.

Caln Quarter Meets at Downingtown, February 19

10am: Opening Exercises followed by Meeting or Worship

Noon: Announcements and Brown Bag Lunch

Afternoon: Meeting for Business for Caln Quarter followed by program. More details to come.

Key Links

Caln Quarterly Meeting

www.quakercloud.org/cloud/caln-quarterly-meeting

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

www.pym.org

Friends General Conference

www.fgcquaker.org

Friends Committee on National Legislation

<http://fcnl.org>

Reading Monthly Meeting, 108 North Sixth Street, Reading, PA - www.readingfriendsmeeting.org



Notes of the Reading Monthly Meeting for Business First Day, January 8, 2016

Janet Lamborn, clerk Jim Lamborn, recording clerk

Present: Ann Bodnyk, Peter Frank, Jim Hiatt, Tom Hughes, Bonnie and Carl Knutsen, Roger Lawn, Nan and Jim Morrissey, Jean Pedersen, Cys Sica

Minutes The Meeting approved the minutes of the December 2016 Meeting for Business.

Treasurer's Report Ann Bodnyk presented a preliminary Treasurer's Report as the year-end reconciliations are incomplete. She noted that heating expenses in 2016 were less than budgeted as a result of a warm fall and low oil prices. 6th Street maintenance costs were reduced by generous donations of volunteer labor. John Hayden, clerk of Caln Quarter and engineer, will visit our meetinghouse to help trustees develop a schedule to manage future maintenance costs. Any 2016 surplus will be applied to an operational and maintenance reserve.

Annual Recording Clerk's Report Cys Sica reported that as of 2016, Reading Monthly Meeting has 60 adult members and 3 associate members. We have 4 fewer members than in 2015. We are reminded that we pay a fee to PYM for every member we have on the books.

Nominating Committee Bonnie Knutsen, clerk, presented an updated 2017 committee list with two minor

changes. Cys Sica added a needed asterisk and the report was accepted as corrected. This list is now posted at the meeting website. Note also that updated addresses for Judy Geiser, Jim Hall and Lee Pickett are posted in the address list of our private web site.

Worship and Ministry Committee Jim Hiatt, clerk, reported that a committee of 12 is now set up to present Opening Exercises. 2 or 3 more volunteers would help round out the committee. David Dare has offered to play piano for Opening Exercises once a month as asked.

Announcements

Friendly Readers will meet January 23 at Chris Field's home in Shillington for dessert and to discuss Tom Keating's book on centering prayer, Open Heart, Open Mind.

Please sign up to bring snacks to serve after Meeting. The list is on the bulletin board.

Save February 19 to attend Caln Quarter Meeting at Downingtown Meeting.

- Bonnie Knutsen

Exeter Meeting News

The first Sunday of every month we will start with 1/2 hour of hymn singing prior to worship. Our emphasis on the first Sunday will continue to be our tween group discussion, and after worship we will have our usual delicious potluck.

The adult discussion group, prior to Meeting for Worship (except for first Sunday of the Month) will be reading and discussing the revisions to Faith and Practice.

There will be two boxes placed in the Meetinghouse. One is for items to be donated to the Oley Food

Bank. The other box will be for designated items to be given to Berks Women in Crisis. Keep your eye open for an e-mail stating what is most needed by this group.

The second Sunday of every month, following worship, we hold our Exeter Friends Meeting for Business. Everyone is welcome to be part of this meeting and welcome to be part of the business.

- Shirley Smith

QuakerSpeak: Finding and Keeping Our Voice in 2017

from Jeanne Elberfeld, Swatara Planning Committee

Request for Workshop Proposals

Spirit led messages are powerful. As Quakers it is not only what we communicate, but how we communicate the message that has the greatest impact.

The Caln Quarter, Swatara Planning Committee is inviting all members and attenders of Caln Quarter to offer their gifts and talents generously in the form of workshops for fellow Quakers.

Our theme for Caln Quarter Weekend Retreat 2017 is

QuakerSpeak: Finding and Keeping Our Voice in 2017

Consider this: if our words are our most powerful tool, when and why do we choose to use them? What about other methods of communication?

Arts- Poetry, song, theater, or painting

Social justice activism

Nature's beauty and bounty

Environmental concerns

Interpersonal relationships and community building and a multitude of other possibilities.

In a spirit of love and acceptance we ask you to search your heart for your unique voice, or passion, which could be shared with others.

Workshops can be formal or informal, the choice is with the presenters. They are scheduled for approximately one hour and are held Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

If you are inspired to offer a workshop, please email Jeanne Elberfeld, jelberfeld@gmail.com.

Include your:

Name(s) of the presenter(s)

Monthly Meeting

Title of workshop

Which day you prefer to present (Saturday or Sunday)

Brief description/abstract (less than 150 words)

Equipment/ technical support requirements for your workshop (PowerPoint projector, screen, etc.)

Contact information- phone/email address

Deadline for submissions is February 15, 2017.

Thanks and blessings for your thoughtful consideration.

"Thee lift me and I'll lift thee and we'll ascend together." ~ Quaker Proverb



Enjoying Christmas Tea 2016: Nancy List with her mother, Olive Irwin, BJ Stillwell with her daughter, Jackie Stillwell, Charmoine Jones with her daughter, Kerry Lee, Nan Morrissey. Picture taken by Elizabeth Stillwell.

Happy Birthday to Alex Bohne, 1/4, Jeanne Elberfeld, 1/6, Sheila Kline, 1/15, Jean Pedersen, 2/6, Heather Ehrlich, 2/7, Phil Bohne, 2/8, Bonnie Knutsen, 2/9 and Taylor Lamborn, 2/11.

Hold in the Light Betty Lamborn, at home recovering from a fall; Gerry Coe, a friend of Becky and Jim Hiatt, who is suffering from cancer. Sheila Kline and Larry Gingrich ask that we hold their friend, Anthony, in the light as he serves time at Berks County Corrections Facility,

Welcome Henry Judy and Phil Bohne proudly announce the arrival of their first grandchild, Henry Bohne on January 3 in Chester Springs, PA. His parents are Andrew and Rachel Bohne.

Best Wishes to Pat Jackson who retired from Wells Fargo on December 31, 2016. She looks forward to spending more time with family and friends and enjoying her many interests, including her beautiful houseplants. (Ask her about the 6' grapefruit tree in the kitchen.)

A Busy Professor Jeanne Elberfeld is now teaching for Marywood U. in the MSW program. She is working with four friends/professionals to create a trauma healing program in Schuylkill County.

Schuylkill Friends invite us to gather on Thursdays, 9:30-10:30am, at their meetinghouse, 37 Whitehorse Road, Phoenixville, for 1/2 hour of compassion meditation followed by conversation. They write "Compassion meditation can be challenging as we ask ourselves to send love and light even to those with whom we have the most difficulty. Together, let's see what love and understanding can do, starting within each of us." For more, contact Janet Lamborn, our Caln Quarter representative.



We said Good-Bye at the Christmas Tea to two dear Friends. Judy Geiser has moved to Kendal retirement community in Kennett Square, PA. Lee Pickett (right) now lives in Durham, NC with husband, Jim Russo, and many beloved cats and dogs.

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Many thanks to Peter Frank for building and hanging a new coat rack (pictured in Page 1) in the hallway in time for the Christmas Tea. Kudos, too, to Phil Bohne who is restoring and hanging the shutters for the 6th Street windows (more to come).

Bon Voyage Judy Ballinger and Blair Seitz will return to Costa Rica in February to visit family and enjoy the magnificent Monteverde Forest.

Support our Meeting Mail your contribution to: Reading Monthly Meeting, c/o Ann Bodnyk, PO Box 148, Kutztown, PA 19530-0148

Kitchen Call Cleaning out? Downsizing? Moving? The Hospitality Committee would welcome any cutting boards you no longer need. Questions? Contact Judy Bohne, clerk.



Please join us for worship every Sunday: Opening Exercises, 10am, Meeting for Worship, 10:15am. First Day School begins at 10:30am. We are an unprogrammed meeting, a member of Caln Quarter and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. For more information, call 610-372-5345, visit us on Face Book or our web site, www.readingfriendsmeeting.org.

The Reading Monthly Meeting Newsletter is published at our website and in print 10 times a year by the Communications Committee. Send news for the October newsletter to Bonnie Knutsen, bknutsen@ptd.net by November 13. Submit address, telephone or Email changes to Carl Knutsen at webagent@readingfriendsmeeting.org.

Clerk of Reading Meeting: Janet Lamborn
Treasurer: Ann Bodnyk
Clerk of Trustees: Taylor Lamborn

Mailing Address: PO Box 148, Kutztown, PA 19530-0148
Clerk of Religious Education: Joe Morrissey
Clerk of Exeter Meeting: Paul Kerr