

Reading Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

September 2017 Newsletter

“In times of insecurity, communities that look different become convenient scapegoats. We must resist cynical efforts to divide communities... discrimination diminishes us all... Together, let us stand up against bigotry and for human rights. Together, let us build bridges. Together, let us transform fear into hope.”

- UN Secretary-General António Guterres, 2017 International Day of Peace.

September 2017 Calendar

First Day, 9/17 Meeting for Worship. Taylor Lamborn leads Opening Exercises.

- Swatara Planning Committee Meeting, 1pm at the Meetinghouse. RMM Friends are urged to attend as we are the primary sponsors this year
- Vigil at Berks County Family Detention Center at 3:30pm

Thursday, 9/21 2017 International Day of Peace

Saturday, 9/23 Bucks Quarter Peace Fair at Buckingham Friends Meetinghouse

First Day, 9/24 Meeting for Worship

Thursday, 9/28 6:30pm Worship and Ministry Meeting in the Penn Room. Jim Hiatt, contact

Taste of Hope Gala, 5:30-8:30pm at Double Tree by Hilton. To donate to the Meeting Gift Basket, contact Judy Ballinger

All-Day Songfest
September 23, 9am—9pm
at

Lancaster Friends Meeting
110 Tulane Terrace
Lancaster, PA 17603

Annie Patterson, co-editor of *Rise Up Singing*, will lead some of the singing.

October 2017 Calendar

First Day, 10/1 Meeting for Worship followed by Potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share if you are able.

Monday, 10/2 7pm Berks Peace Community gathers at the Meetinghouse. John Hoskyns-Abrahall contact.

First Day, 10/8 Meeting for Worship followed by Meeting for Business.

Tuesday, 10/10 6pm Reading and Exeter Meeting Friends prepare supper for Opportunity House folks. Volunteers welcome. Beth Finlay, contact.

Saturday, 10/14 Friends Fall Festival at Downingtown Meeting, 9am—4pm

First Day, 10/15 Caln Quarter gathers at Sadsbury Meeting, 1089 Simmontown Road, Gap, PA. Worship begins at 10:15am.

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 September Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business—Sunday, September 10, 2017

Janet Lamborn, clerk Jim Lamborn, recording clerk

Present: Judy Ballinger and Blair Seitz, Ann Bodnyk, Jeanne Elberfeld, Chris Field, Peter Frank, Jennifer Hanf and John Loomis, Jim Hiatt, Fran and Daryl Hoopes, Pat Jackson, Bonnie and Carl Knutsen, Betty and Taylor Lamborn, Roger Lawn, Nan and Jim Morrissey, Jean Pedersen, Cys Sica

Approval of the Minutes of August 4, 2017

Review and approval of the Agenda

Treasurer's Report for July and August 2017 Approved.

Ann Bodnyk, Treasurer, noted that we paid our taxes on the rear lot - school, real estate and DID, Downtown Improvement District (\$518.36).

The Hedge at Maiden Creek

Taylor Lamborn said that the hedge is alive but only thriving in a few places. We need a long-term plan that would include the input of our two master gardeners, Jennifer Hanf and Heather Ehrlich.

Trustees Reports:

Insurance Ann Bodnyk, presenter, recommended that the Meeting add liability insurance to our policy (\$428 a year). This is a common practice for churches. It protects our officers and trustees. The Meeting agreed.

Parking Lot Request Pat Jackson, presenter, said that Chris Pearson, owner of the apartment/commercial building behind us, has asked for permission to use our parking lot for special events scheduled for weekends or evenings. He already has an arrangement with Trinity Lutheran, paying \$100 per event. Since our lot is smaller, he suggests \$60 per event. He has insurance and would have a security guard on duty during the event. (Our insurance agent reviewed his policy and found it equal to ours.) He would ask permission before each event in case we need the space for our own activities. The Meeting agreed to his proposal.

Mr. Pearson also expressed interest in creating an informal partnership of his building, Trinity and us to work together to improve the neighborhood and attract a better clientele to his property. He has refurbished his 12 apartments. Ann Bodnyk, Pat Jackson and Taylor Lamborn had a 'face-to-face' meeting with Mr. Pearson and declared it 'very positive'.

Vandalism? Careless Driving? Taylor Lamborn, presenter, said that in the last few weeks, the gate to our side yard has been broken and chunks of the stone wall around the parking lot have been knocked down. The gate and fence can be repaired, but the broken wall presents a

bigger challenge. The Trustees will study the matter and return with a recommendation.

Homeless Person Raises Concern

Our clerk, Janet Lamborn, came to meeting around 9am Sunday to find Larry, the homeless person, sleeping on our porch and the pile of cardboard beside the meetinghouse bigger than ever. She called the police who arrived late, saying they had trouble finding us and didn't know the Meeting existed. Charlie Gilbert will talk to Larry, trying again to find a solution to the cardboard mound and sleeping arrangements.

Felter and Finlay Announce Retirement

Fran Hoopes informed the Meeting that Cynthia Felter and Beth Finlay will retire from their positions as meal planners for the RMM monthly supper at Opportunity House. Exeter Meeting may decide to take on this responsibility.

Announcements

The Taste of Hope Gala for Family Promise will be held Thursday, September 28 at the Double Tree Hilton from 5:30—8:30pm. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. Contact Judy Ballinger if you wish to contribute to the Meeting gift basket.

The Swatara Planning Committee will meet here on September 17 at 1pm in the Penn Room. Jeanne Elberfeld and Jim Lamborn are leading the committee this year, but vigorously urge other Reading Friends to come to the meeting and help in planning the weekend. The Committee will meet the third Sunday of every month, except December.

Caln Quarter is seeking someone to represent us on the PYM Nominating Council, which meets monthly. Contact Janet Lamborn for more information.

October Caln Quarter Meeting—Sadsbury Meeting, Worship begins at 10:15am. The program will be a report from the Alternatives to Violence Project on their trip to Palestine and Israel.

- Bonnie Knutsen

Across the Quarter

Exeter - *from Shirley Smith:* Exeter Meeting plans to have its meeting picnic on Sunday, Sept 17 following worship. We will caravan to the Diener homestead for the potluck meal. People attending are asked to bring outdoor chairs or blankets, and appropriate outdoor games.

A Work Day is planned for Saturday, November 4 at the Meetinghouse, starting at 9am. Bring outdoors tools. It is hoped that most of the leaves will be down by then.

Consideration to the Exeter Friends Meeting website was given. A few changes were made to make it more appropriate to present day.

Harrisburg - *an excerpt from the Minutes of the Meeting for Business August 27, 2017. Listen in as Friends ponder a painful issue within our community.*

Ken reported that Quaker Life Council is supposed to be working on the issue of Avis, who was asked to leave Upper Dublin Meeting. She is asking for a letter of censure for Upper Dublin. There is no precedence for this. Generally, Yearly Meetings have no authority over Monthly Meetings. The council has been working on this for a month and no one has been in contact with Avis.

John Hayden talked about the complicated issue of racism today and how PYM works at a corporate level.

Carter thought that the statement that PYM has done "nothing" to help Avis of Upper Dublin is not true. PYM's former clerk Jada Jackson did a lot to try

to work with Avis and Upper Dublin. Representatives of PYM and from Harrisburg Meeting were at the business meeting when Avis was read out of Meeting at Upper Dublin. Persons of color have said to Carter that they were comfortable with the actions that UD meeting took. Carter cautioned that before opinions are made, one must know the whole story.

Ken feels that the issue at Upper Dublin is beyond reconciliation at Upper Dublin. It is up to PYM to make a statement that racism is unacceptable. Ruth commented that this is the challenge for us as white Quakers. Is our goal to reconcile people or to stand alongside those who feel wounded by all of history? It is a challenge with our Peace Testimony. We can't be silent. Friends felt like this topic could be a good one for a threshing session.

Ken asked that we as a business meeting ask Quaker Life Council reach out to Avis to let her know of their processes. Laura (*clerk*) pointed out that this is another example of the lack of transparency at PYM.

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On a more light-hearted note:

Community Barbeque
September 30, 11am - 2pm
Harrisburg Meeting, 110 N. 6th Street

A variety of foods will be served and there will be gift bags to take home.



How to repair our broken wall?

Some suggest we install a bollard, or a heavy post, at the end of the wall to protect it from careless drivers. Taylor Lamborn says that our parking lot gets a lot of "turn-around" traffic.

The wall at the other exit was also damaged, but not as much. Phil Bohne and Peter Frank were able to fix it. They will also repair our broken gate.

The Trustees will meet this month and look for a solution to preserving and protecting the stone wall.

**Friendly Readers will discuss Sebastian Junger's
Tribe on Tuesday, October 24**

The Friendly Readers will meet on October 24th 6:30pm at the meetinghouse to discuss *Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging* (2016) by Sebastian Junger. Only 168 pages long, *Tribe* explores our need for belonging, for community in a 21st-century culture that does not offer that gift easily

One reviewer wrote: "This is not a book about war, the military or PTSD. It's about the loss of belonging, and of caring for others as we do about the ones closest to us. Junger is the author of *The Perfect Storm* and co-directed the Academy Award-nominated film, *Restrepo*.

We think this is a book that could give us insight into the importance of our own meeting community and the part it plays in our lives, so we hope you can join us!

- Chris Field

From our clerk:

"As your representative on the Caln Quarterly Meeting Care Committee, I am available to speak to you about the activities of Quarterly Meeting. Additionally, upon request, I will send to you Minutes of the various Quarterly Meetings and Minutes of the various Care Committee meetings. Caln QM's website is <https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/caln-quarterly-meeting>."

- Janet Lamborn

David Dare would be happy to accompany hymns for Opening Exercises. Just let him know.

Hold in the Light Marie Ryan and her husband, Mark Gunlefinger. Mark is at home under hospice care.

Happy Birthday to Judy Bohne, 10/2, Debbie Gilbert, 10/7, and Pat Jackson, 10/9.

Congratulations to Liz Elberfeld, daughter of Jeanne and Greg Elberfeld, and Tyler Cook, son of Dave and Lisa Cook, on their engagement. A Fall 2018 wedding is being planned.

Congratulations to Pat Jackson and Ron Bitner on the birth of their grandson, Finn Mountz, August 26th in Lancaster, PA. The third child of Elton and Megan Mountz, Finn arrived at 8lbs. 6oz.

Good News Jim and Wendy Hall, now living in St. Augustine, FL, are all right, reports Jennifer Hanf. They have power but no WIFI. Wendy's mother is with them. (posted 9.14.17)

Kutztown Chippies The baby chipmunks pictured in the heading live next to Ann Bodnyk's back porch. Only 1" long, they have yet to learn to fear humans.



Please join us for worship every Sunday. Opening Exercises begin at 10am followed by worship at 10:15am. We are an unprogrammed meeting, and a member of Caln Quarter and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. For more information, call 610-372-5345, visit us on Face Book or at 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 First Day, October 8. 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

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