

# Reading Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

January 2018 Newsletter

"A gift is something God gives us to help us live a whole life, make a whole family, or be a whole community. Our gifts are special parts of who we are. If we pay attention and care for one another, we can discover them, and help each other understand how to use those gifts wisely." - Excerpt from the Faith & Play story "Gifts"

## January 2018 Calendar

- First Day, 1/21 10am** Opening Exercises led by Blair Seitz. **10:15am** Meeting for Worship.  
**1pm** Swatara Planning Committee meets in the Penn Room, Jeanne Elberfeld, contact  
**3:30pm** Vigil at Berks Family Detention Center, hosted by Harrisburg Brethren Christ Church
- Tuesday, 1/23 7pm** Peace and Social Concerns Committee meets in the Penn Room. Blair Seitz, contact.
- Thursday, 1/25 6:30pm** Worship and Ministry Committee meets in the Penn Rom. Jim Hiatt, contact.
- First Day, 1/28 10am** Opening Exercises led by Judy Ballinger. **10:15am** Meeting for Worship

## Key Links

- Caln Quarterly Meeting  
[www.quakercloud.org/cloud/caln-quarterly-meeting](http://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/caln-quarterly-meeting)
- Philadelphia Yearly Meeting  
[www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org)
- Friends Committee on National Legislation  
<http://fcnl.org>

Note: The picture above is from one taken at the Meetinghouse on Christmas Eve by Blair Seitz.

## February 2018 Calendar

- First Day, 2/4 10am** Opening Exercises led by Taylor Lamborn. **10:15am** Meeting for Worship followed by Potluck Lunch
- Monday, 2/5 7pm** Berks Peace Group meets at Reading Meetinghouse, 7pm. John Hoskyns-Abrahall, contact.
- First Day, 2/11 10am** Opening Exercises led by Bonnie Knutsen. **10:15am** Meeting for Worship followed by Meeting for Business
- Tuesday, 2/13 9pm** BCTV "Centering on Peace" Program. John Hoskyns-Abrahall, contact,

## Visit a PYM Monthly Meeting!

Our General Secretary has invited all Friends in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to visit two meetings each year as a way to know one another better and experience the breadth and diversity of our faith community...

Choose a meeting that is a neighbor or very far away. Consider traveling with a friend. Try a meeting that is in a city or way out in the country. Visit a very large or very small meeting. Try one because you like its name or because it's in a place you have never been. We have so many meetings to choose from!

Reading Monthly Meeting, 108 North Sixth Street, Reading, PA - [www.readingfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.readingfriendsmeeting.org)



## Notes of the Reading Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business—Sunday, January 14, 2018

Jim Morrissey, clerk    Heather Ehrlich, recording clerk

Present: Ann Bodnyk, Jeanne Elberfeld, Peter Frank, Charley Gilbert, Jim Hall, Jennifer Hanf and John Loomis, Tom Hughes, Pat Jackson, Roger Lawn, Nan and Jim Morrissey, Marie Ryan, Cys Sica

Agenda approved as presented.

Minutes of Twelfth Month Meeting for Business corrected to add Pat Jackson to the ad hoc insurance review committee. Approved as amended.

**Treasurer's Report:** No report as the treasurer waits for end of year 2017 information.

**Maiden Creek Hedge Update:** Jennifer Hanf explained that a committee has come to the conclusion that the boxwood hedge at Maiden Creek meetinghouse should be replaced with a more practical fence. The current hedge has been declining for several years and a non-living barrier will require much less maintenance. It is necessary to have some kind of physical barrier between our Maiden Creek property and the City of Reading property next to it. She presented a drawing to show a three-rail split rail fence with a few shrubs at the driveway entrance. Jim Hall reminded us that the fence should be high enough to allow mowing under the bottom rail. Heather Ehrlich added that quotes were solicited from three different fence companies for a three-rail split rail fence with hemlock rails and black locust posts. The quotes ranged from approximately \$6,000 to \$8,000. The meeting was asked to and did approve contracting with one of these companies. Heather also asked for an additional \$250 for plantings. The meeting approved the \$250 but asked for a specific plan before plants are purchased and installed.

**Nominating Committee:** Marie Ryan agreed to serve as the third member of this committee. With her addition, the 2018 Committee List was approved.

**Recorder's Report:** Cys Sica, recorder, reported that the meeting lost six members last year. Four losses were due to death, one was a transfer, one was a meeting removal. The membership as of January 1, 2018, is 54 members and 3 associate members for a total of 57. Roger Lawn asked if a date has been decided for the memorial service for Charmoine Jones. Marie Ryan added she spoke with Kerry Lee, Charmoine's daughter, about having it Saturday, March 24, 2018. That date was added to the calendar, in pencil, as it is

not 100% firm. The plan also includes the burial of both Charmoine and Curtis Jones' ashes at Maiden Creek Sunday, March 25.

The Recorder asked if anyone knew of the status of meeting member Lillian Emery. Jeanne Elberfeld found she was deceased in 2017, via a Google search.

**Peace and Social Concerns:** Jeanne Elberfeld reported that \$151 was donated during the Christmas tea. \$150 was contributed to the holiday meal for 60 people held at the Berks Family Detention Center as approved during Twelfth Month 2017, Meeting with Attention to Business. Also, beautiful, new, reusable glass jar luminarias were made and placed along the front sidewalk of the meetinghouse Christmas Eve.

**Meetinghouse Safety:** Pat Jackson reported that this committee will hold its first meeting Sunday, January 14, 2018. Members are Peter Frank, Jeanne Elberfeld, John Loomis, Blair Seitz and Pat Jackson.

**Gifts and Loans:** A report is deferred as the committee has not met since last Meeting for Business.

### **Correspondence:**

Email from Jim Herr, 12/29/17 "As the treasurer for Caln Quarter for many years, and a constant voice in all our meetings for many, many years, Darl had a very significant impact on our Quarter. I will sorely miss his clear, and often stubborn, views that frequently took us where we really needed to go."

Swatara workshops: Please consider leading a workshop, (see page 3) or contact Jeanne Elberfeld.

Consider serving on the PYM nominating council. It meets ten times per year by phone and is a good way to be more connected to PYM.

Next Quarterly Meeting: 2/18/18 at Lancaster Monthly Meeting. Program: a play about Benjamin West; followed by Q and A.

- Heather Ehrlich

## *Swatara Planning Committee Seeks Workshop Leaders for Caln Quarter Weekend, May 2018*

*George Fox was inspired to search because the prevailing religious ceremonies, rituals, and traditions were obstacles to his internal seeking of God. Throughout the past 300 years, Quakers have led on issues of slavery, prison conditions, poverty, women's rights, Native American affairs, environmental insults, and war. Obstacles arise but Quakers tenaciously persevere in their testimonies to create opportunities for change.*

The Caln Quarter Swatara Planning Committee has chosen the theme **Obstacles and Opportunities: Quaker's past lessons illuminating the way forward** for the Caln Quarter annual weekend retreat at Camp Swatara, May 4, 5 and 6.

The Committee invites all members and attenders of Caln Quarter to offer their gifts and talents for workshops related to this theme.

Consider the many lessons that are waiting to be rediscovered by looking back on Quaker history. These lessons can guide our choices.

We are calling on Quaker members and attenders to share their knowledge and experience of Quaker past lessons, present obstacles and opportunities, and considerations of future paths of action. 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, are scheduled for approximately one hour, and are held Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. We will be limiting the number of workshops to 6 this year, 3 for Saturday afternoon and 3 for Sunday morning. Our plenary speaker, Adrian Martinez, will present one of the Sunday morning workshops. We encourage a diversity of workshops. These could feature experiential learning, discussions, a lecture format - whatever you imagine- that fit the theme.

Our plenary speaker, Adrian Martinez, renowned Chester County, Quaker artist who has captured Penn and Native Americans in one extensive painting project, will show us images from his recent, five year effort painting Humphrey Marshall's Quaker story. He will speak about the obstacles encountered by Marshall and lessons gleaned from those obstacles.

Our workshops on Saturday will focus on present day Quaker life and how the lessons from early Quakers influence or direct our current work.

The Sunday workshops will focus on Quakerism in the future. What will living the Quaker testimonies look like in the future? How do we move forward in activism and outreach with challenging changes in science, politics, social justice issues, and global issues with Quaker integrity?

If you are inspired to offer a workshop, please email Jeanne Elberfeld, Reading Meeting at [jelberfeld@gmail.com](mailto:jelberfeld@gmail.com).

Include your:

Name(s) of the presenter(s)

Monthly Meeting

Title of workshop

Does this workshop fit best in present (Saturday), or future (Sunday) discussions

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 11, 2018.

Thanks and blessings for you thoughtful consideration.

Workshops will be selected by the Swatara Planning Committee in mid-February and presenters will be contacted by email.

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

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### **Memorial in California**

William Hunton Leighton, Phd, the brother of Betty Lamborn, March 7, 1943 - December 12, 2017. Janet Lamborn reports "Uncle Bill's memorial was held at Rolling Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church, on January 13, 2018, on Palos Verdes Peninsula, in Los Angeles County. My dad and I were among the planned speakers, and Jim played a beautiful violin solo, "Meditation" from the opera Thais. In addition to the break from the cold and snow, the 6-day trip focused on visiting with family in Rancho Palos Verdes and San Diego."

**Hold in the Light** the family of Darl Hoopes who passed away on December 27 at Reading Hospital. His memorial service was held on January 13.

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**Hold in the Light** the family and friends of Charmoine Jones who passed away at home on January 1. Plans are being made for a memorial service in March.

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**Hold in the Light** Ian Lange, son of Jean and Kai Pedersen, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

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**Congratulations** to Sheila Kline and Larry Gingrich on the birth of Liam Robert Carringer, their first grandchild, on November 17, 2017 at Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. He is the son of Julie Kline and Allen Carringer.

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**From Janet Lamborn:**

**Committee clerks:** please send your annual reports to Janet Lamborn.

**Committees and clerks:** please review and update job descriptions as necessary.

**Members of the Meeting:** Please read and look for possible updates to the RMM by-laws.

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**An Opportunity to Lead**

Please contact Jim Hiatt when Thee feels led to lead Opening Exercises. David Dare is often available to accompany hymns for Opening Exercises.

**Friendly Readers Choose Wilkerson**

*The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson is the Friendly Readers' selection for Spring.

Suggested by Patty Jackson and heartily seconded by Bonnie Knutsen, this book is a beautifully written, non-fiction account of three families, who, like 6 million other black citizens, fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life. What they left in the South is shocking to read and deserves to be remembered. What they found at the end of their journey was nearly as disheartening.

Wilkerson's vivid reporting of the past helps us understand how and why African Americans view the world they way they do today.

Book discussion will be Monday, April 23 at 6:30pm.

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**Happy Birthday** to Janet Lamborn, 1/20, Jean Pedersen, 2/6, Heather Ehrlich, 2/7, Phil Bohne, 2/8, Bonnie Knutsen, 2/9, Julia Elberfeld, 2/11, and Taylor Lamborn, 2/11

**A Warm Reminder**

If you plan to use the meetinghouse in the coming months, be sure to schedule it on the calendar in the conference room so that the **heat** can be set.

Jim Lamborn, clerk, House Committee

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**The Last Word**

God is not a noun that must be defined. God is a verb that must be lived.

- Bishop John Spong



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](http://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 February newsletter to Bonnie Knutsen, [bknutsen@ptd.net](mailto:bknutsen@ptd.net) by First Day, February 11. Submit address, telephone or Email changes to Carl Knutsen at [webagent@readingfriendsmeeting.org](mailto:webagent@readingfriendsmeeting.org). **Changes are posted at the private domain site as soon as they are received.**

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