

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

December 2016

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65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067
<http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/>

Meeting for Worship 10:00–11:00
First Day School 10:15–11:00

Linda Jacobs, Clerk
Ed Snyder, Newsletter Editor

This month at YFM

Friday December 2, 6:30 PM

Holiday potluck and tree decorating party

Saturday December 10, 1-3 PM

Santa's Workshop at Buttonwood Park, hot chocolate provided by YFM

Sunday December 11, 3 PM

Holiday dinner at Pennswood Village

Saturday December 17, 1-3 PM

Santa's Workshop at Buttonwood Park, hot chocolate provided by YFM

Saturday December 24, 7-8 PM

Candlelight service

Looking ahead

TBD - late Feb/March?

Dr. Dan Gottlieb, sponsored by YFM at the meetinghouse. Stay tuned for more info.

Around the Quarter

MIDWEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Tuesdays at Southampton 7:30 PM
Wednesdays at Lehigh Valley 5:00 PM
Wednesdays at Makefield 7:00 AM
Thursdays at Middletown 7:00 PM

Dec 27-30: Young Friends Christmas Gathering - Woodstown Meetinghouse

Dec 27-30: Middle School Friends Holiday Break Gathering - Abington Meetinghouse

Looking Ahead

Sat Jan 14: WRONG THING: Racial Justice and Authentic Community Using the Strategies of the H.E.A.R.T. Sponsored by Bucks Quarterly Meeting, at Buckingham Friends meetinghouse.

Jan 14-15: Family Overnight - Camp Onas

Feb 21: Quarterly Meeting - Middletown Meetinghouse

Feb: Chandler Hall Worship Services to be organized by Yardley

See this month's Quakerphenalia for details and all events and activities!

A note from your newsletter editor

If you have info for the next newsletter, please e-mail me at ed@mrpplansinc.com. Cut-off is the 25th of each month. Feel free to write with suggestions for improvements. **If you are reading a hard copy and don't mind having it e-mailed, please let me know and we can save some paper and postage.**

Moving Forward

There is no such thing as a problem without an opportunity. Given a choice, I don't invite problems. Often things are out of our hands. When problems come along it is best to embrace them. We have been challenged. From time to time the world gets shaken up. Without challenge, it is easy to live in our own small world. We feel strongly about our own beliefs. We try but don't always look closely at the thoughts and feelings of others in different circumstances. There are causes around us that we work for. Most of us reach out to people of different races, religions, cultures, sexual orientation. Do we think about people with different education and backgrounds and how they live in other parts of the United States?

I started to write this the day after the election. I know not everyone in Meeting feels the same. Our political views may differ. Friends within Meeting and in the circle around us may be happy with the outcome of the election. Many of us are worried and upset! A decision has been made. Faith and watchful work comes next. Some are still working on reversing the election. Anything is possible but doubtful.

We don't know what the future has in store. We do know that a lot of hate has come to the surface. It seems policies the country has worked long and hard to adopt are in jeopardy. There may be good things we don't anticipate. Who really knows?

Throughout history Quakers have been a small steady voice for goodness and what is right. We don't run the world. We reach out without judging and care for those in need. We try to be positive energy in whatever ways we can.

Our ancestors went through many things that are hard to imagine. People have lived through holocaust, genocides, wars, and sickness. So many things happen in a lifetime. All we can do is try our best.

Many of us have gone through hard times in our lives. We look back later and say "How did we stand that?" In everyday give and take of life, it's okay. Good and bad is what life is. We have much happiness in our surrounding and much to be thankful for. We have each other.

We need to accept and respect what is. Stand up for what's good and changes we can make. What's ahead we do not know. As in everything else, we must try a little harder. It has made many people aware of how important it is to care for and listen to others. Let's stand up and speak out for what's right.

Twelfth Query, Integrity and Simplicity

What does our Meeting understand to be the meaning and implication of our testimonies on simplicity and integrity?

How do our Meeting's actions demonstrate this understanding?

As a Meeting, what are we doing to encourage members to embody integrity and simplicity in their everyday lives?

How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives—in my spiritual journey, my work, and my family responsibilities?

How do I manage my commitments so that overcommitment, worry, and stress do not diminish my integrity?

Am I temperate in all things? Am I open to counsel and advice on overindulgence and addictive behavior, such as gambling? Do I take seriously the hazards associated with addictive and mood-altering substances?

continued...

Twelfth Query, continued...

Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me? Am I mindful that judicial oaths imply a double standard of truth?

Do I refrain from membership in organizations whose purposes and methods compromise our testimonies?

Photos from the Simple Gifts workshop - a good time was had by all!



Your Francis and Betty Irwin calendar inspiration for the month ...

When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure.

Peter Marshall*

Hard copies of the 2016 calendar are available in the Meetinghouse.

*In the "mildly amusing" category, the calendar people attribute this to "Peter Marshall, America 1926." *That* Peter Marshall, born Ralph Pierre LaCock in 1926, was host of Hollywood Squares. I believe the quote is properly attributed to Peter Marshall (May 27, 1902 – January 26, 1949), a Scots-American preacher, pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC and twice appointed Chaplain of the United States Senate. *ed.*