

# YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

October 2017

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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*

### **Oct 1**

World Quaker Day - Come back/show up!

### **Oct 8**

Meeting for Worship with attention to Business

### **Oct 15**

Adult education following Meeting for Worship - TBD

### **Oct 22**

Adult education following Meeting for Worship - TBD

### **Oct 28**

Potluck dinner/discussion - Continuing dialogue on compassion. Starts 6 PM.

### **Oct 29**

Adult education following Meeting for Worship - TBD

## **Looking ahead**

### **Dec 26**

Blood drive at YFM. Details to follow.

## *Around the Quarter/PYM/Local events*

### **Oct 8, 5-8 PM**

Film, "Quaker Oaths" - A Quaker Romantic Road Trip  
Comedy - The Newtown Theatre

### **Oct 15, 5-8 PM**

The Peace Center Autumn Gala - Spring Mill Manor, Ivyland  
(see article later in this issue)

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

## **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

## **Quote of the month**

People are down on what they're not up on.

Gerard Phelps, Yardley Friends Meeting  
(thanks to Janet Zimmerman)



### Keep Calm, Be Quaker Be Still

I thought of writing Clerks Corner before setting out on vacation. Then I had a second thought. Bring pen and paper and let vacation tell me what to write.

The journey started canoeing to a campsite on a pond in the Adirondack Mountains. Wearing my *Keep Calm Be Quaker* T shirt we arrived with tent and all we needed for two nights. Secluded in nature, I felt the tension that is part of modern life slightly start to slide off. The stillness seeped in more and more as we canoed. A night of dinner by a fire, sleeping to the sounds of nature, I felt even more relaxed. As we started to paddle in the morning, I glanced at my shirt. It came to me this month's theme. "Keep Calm, Be Quaker."

Near the end of our journey we were able to worship with Friends at Vassalboro Friends Meeting. Their friendliness, calm and caring ways reminded me of us. While sitting there I thought about the fact that I was just in the present moment. Not thinking of our upcoming events or an announcement after worship, or a committee meeting. I was with friends/Friends we haven't met just sharing part of our day and worshipping on Sunday morning.

We are home now. As life goes, we arrived to matters of consequence to be taken care of. After 10 days of just relaxing, I was reminded how much of a jolt this can be to our system. Each day has normal everyday things that add stress to our lives. We think of it as normal because it is every day. Life with no stressors will never be. In our personal life and the greater world, things happen. Thinking of the T-shirt helps. It's not always easy. We need to react. But Be Still. Keep Calm, Be Quaker.

### Tenth Query, Stewardship of the Environment

Is the Meeting concerned that human interaction with nature be responsible, guided by a reverence for life and a sense of the splendor of God's continuing creation?

Are the decisions of the Meeting and its committees relating to the uses of property, goods, services, and energy made with sensitivity toward the environmental impact of those choices?

How does our Meeting learn about environmental concerns and then act in the community on its concerns?

*How am I helping to develop a social, economic, and political system which will nurture an environment which sustains and enriches life for all?*

*Am I aware of the place of water, air, and soil in my life?*

*Do I consider with care the necessity of purchasing substances hazardous to the environment? Do I act as a faithful steward of the environment in the use and disposal of such hazardous substances?*

*Do I choose with care the use of technology and devices that truly simplify and add quality to my life without adding an undue burden to essential resources?*

Mauricio L. Miller's new book, *The Alternative: Most of what you believe about poverty is wrong*, is a provocative narrative about the author's own evolution from growing up in poverty, to 20 years in the social work "industry", to the founding of the Family Independence Initiative. He explains an unconventional approach to generating sustainable economic improvement among low-income families which recognizes their survival skills instead of imposing top-down programs which ignore and minimize those skills. With many vivid examples, from his own life and from the many individuals and families which his organization has counseled, he presents a compelling case for recognizing and supporting the inherent strengths of people who survive despite all the odds stacked against them. The key to his approach is to collect information about the families, and then to support with modest funding those initiatives which they themselves have used, rather than to impose programs in which they have no vested interest and which leads to their dependence on them. He posits that funding strategies targeted at the neediest, and its subsequent removal after minimum gains, results in a race to the bottom, and that large-scale programs that are led by "social service experts" inevitably collapse when funding is suspended. The support of self-generated activities, which require trust and respect, on the other hand, can be self-sustaining with just a fraction of the financial cost, and can result in growing independence of families and whole communities. His organization has a policy where his workers are forbidden to "help" in the traditional sense – i.e. with supplying resources which are not directed towards enabling those activities which the participants have conceived of themselves. It recognizes the inherent strengths of people in dire circumstances, and respects those strengths.

This book opened my eyes to see the ways in which individuals and families cope and find ways to survive. It maintains that starting small and growing can be the best way to achieve large scale success. Finding out what works and supporting that is far better than designing and funding a large scale program and trying to fit families and individuals to the program. This traditional and "professional" process has it absolutely backwards from an approach which actually works. And this approach can be applied to other endeavors as well, endeavors which depend on people working together. The support of local and successful initiatives implies a trust in the people who started them – I'm thinking of religious and political organizations for starters. But it requires research into what people are already doing, so that the modest and targeted funding can support it. That is the basis of facts which the Family Independence Initiative collects and uses.

More information can be found at [www.fii.org](http://www.fii.org).

### **Help the Peace Center Celebrate 35 Years of Peacemaking!**

The Peace Center hopes you can join them for their Autumn Gala on Sunday, October 15th, 5-8 pm at the lovely Spring Mill Manor in Ivyland. At this event you will enjoy live music, food and drink, and a silent and live auction. In addition, know that attending this event, or making a donation, helps to support the important programming that The Peace Center does. This includes bullying prevention programs for elementary and middle school students, mediation services, SAFE Counseling, and a summer Peace Camp.

Currently, The Peace Center (TPC) is also tracking hate crimes and bias incidences in Bucks County. According to Barbara Simmons, Executive Director, there are 917 hate groups operating in the United States and anti-Muslim sentiment is up 197%. Barbara and her staff are busy leading workshops on Interrupting Racism & Bigotry and holding Dialogues on Race – Courageous Conversations in various communities. You can request one of these dialogues or workshops to be held in your community or workplace. Furthermore, consider becoming a member! Membership not only supports their programming but lets you know ways you can become involved and work with The Peace Center to build a more peaceful environment.

For more information on purchasing Gala tickets or becoming a member visit The Peace Center website; [thepeacecenter.org](http://thepeacecenter.org) or call (215) 750-7877