

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

NEWSLETTER

December 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

Dec 2

Yardley Christmas Parade; YFM to provide baked goods

Dec 2

Holiday dinner and tree decorating; starts 6 PM

Dec 3

Committee meetings following Meeting for Worship

Dec 10

Meeting for Business following Meeting for Worship

Dec 17

Children's Christmas play following Meeting for Worship

Dec 22

Candlelight Worship, 7 PM (note new date!)

Dec 26

Blood drive at YFM, 12-5.

register online:

<http://www.redcrossblood.org/>

use sponsor code **Yardley Friends**

Around the Quarter/PYM/Local events

Dec 18

Bucks Food For Friends, Fallsington Meeting; 6 PM

Looking ahead

Feb 18

Quarterly Meeting at Quakertown

May 19 & 20

Quarterly Meeting weekend at Camp Onas

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

Your Francis and Betty Irwin calendar inspiration for the month

A man's life is dyed the color of his imagination.

Marcus Aurelius

Reaching Out

After Dan Gottlieb visited and talked about “Compassion in a World that seems Inhumane” we started hosting compassion pot lucks. It has given us a place to open our minds and hearts. Listening to each other is a way of compassion to ourselves and each other. I am not sure if it's brought us closer to reaching out and listening to those with whom we disagree. The divide in this country is great. There are so many raw feelings for very good reasons.

Besides pot lucks, the conversation at Meeting For Worship the following day shows how much it gets us thinking and a conversation going. Personally, I remain concerned about bridging the divide. People who used to be friends or are linked as family have become demons because of the side they take. I stay away from questions which may lead to uneasy feelings and conversation. Keeping our distance from people who make us upset seems like a smart thing to do. Trying to tackle everything can be very costly to our health. Toxic energy is something I'm very aware of. I understand and feel it. Yet it's not right. The more divides we have as people the more hostility the world has. Can we heal?

I read a definition of spirituality that rings true to me. “Spirituality is recognizing and celebrating that we are all inextricably connected to each other by a power greater than all of us, and that our connection to that power and to one another is grounded in love and compassion.” Then I read “We've broken that link. Our world is in a collective spiritual crisis.”

Spirituality to me is life as I live it. It isn't some up in the sky thing apart from us. We are all connected. Doesn't it make sense that the only way to get past this is to realize that the others are people too. The parts of them we cared for and loved are still there. They also have fear for themselves and their loved ones and a need to belong. Don't we owe it to ourselves and the universe to try recognizing the inner light and to reach out with wonder and try to understand? So what are we to do?

Carol Karwowski sent a link to a website called Better Angels. A summary of something I read from this seems to help define a path. They talk of three approaches:

1. In the first approach we submit to conflict. Conflict is in charge. Some people won't admit conflict exists. Others internalize it and make it their cause. Either way creates polarization. Conflict dominates society. This has become the most popular approach in this country.
2. A second approach is when we seek to clarify and manage conflict. We assume good faith in our adversaries and work towards correcting partial understanding and false stereotypes. In this approach we need to remain civil and look for common ground. We need to maintain a capacity for negotiation and compromise.
3. In the hardest but most fruitful way we seek to transform conflict. We try to go beyond polarization and beyond compromise. We look for higher values and incorporate what is valid and useful on both sides.

Don't we owe it to our greater self to explore what we can do to bring the world together?

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?

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?

BOOK REVIEW

This was recommended by Graham Leonard; the review and selected quotes are from The University of Chicago Press - Ed.

Ibn Tufayl's Hayy Ibn Yaqzan - A Philosophical Tale

The Arabic philosophical fable Hayy Ibn Yaqzan is a classic of medieval Islamic philosophy. Ibn Tufayl (d. 1185), the Andalusian philosopher, tells of a child raised by a doe on an equatorial island who grows up to discover the truth about the world and his own place in it, unaided—but also unimpeded—by society, language, or tradition. Hayy's discoveries about God, nature, and man challenge the values of the culture in which the tale was written as well as those of every contemporary society.

“One of the most remarkable books of the Middle Ages.”—Times Literary Supplement

“An enchanting and puzzling story. . . . The book transcends all historical and cultural environments to settle upon the questions of human life that perpetually intrigue men.”—Middle East Journal

The Peace Center

Pursuant to our discussions about Peace, the Peace Center in Langborne is a great resource for programs, events and information. Thanks to Christine B. for suggesting this!

From their website:

Our Vision

A diverse community committed to living together in Justice and Peace.

continued on next page...

...continued from prior page - The Peace Center

Our Mission

To educate, empower and support individuals and organizations in efforts to prevent violence, promote peaceful resolution of conflict and foster inclusive, equitable and safe communities locally, nationally and worldwide. The Peace Center is located in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. We have been working for community peace and social justice since 1982. Our programs are designed to help reduce violence and conflict in our schools, homes and communities through a multicultural, community-based approach. We are dedicated to furthering peace by understanding and managing conflict in our community, our nation and our world.

Find Us

102 West Maple Ave
Langhorne, PA 19047-2820

T: 215 750 7220
info@thepeacecenter.org

<http://www.thepeacecenter.org/>

Puerto Rico relief update

Cristen Solor

Friends, as many of you know I travelled to Puerto Rico in October for work as part of a hurricane response team. Many of you asked what you could do to help at that time. There are varying levels of help needed in Puerto Rico, with the most pressing being power. In some mountain towns, there is still an issue with supplies and water. There are two organizations that are doing a lot of good work in Puerto Rico right now and I don't much about them other than the information on their websites. What I do know is they are actively working in the hardest hit areas where little other help is available. The first is Water Mission (<https://watermission.org>) which is actively rebuilding water supply systems in rural areas. The second is Samaritan's Purse (<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/?s=Puerto+Rico>) which was supplying food and water in areas where FEMA was not.

In addition the Peace and Social Action Committee will be running a solar lantern collection over the next couple of weeks. I will bring the lanterns with me when I return to Puerto Rico at the end of December and distribute to a local charity I spoke with that doesn't have a website. We are looking for collapsible solar lanterns and I will send a link out to the Google group with an example.

I would like to thank you all for the support you have me given in so many ways as I have been working on this effort. My work is part of my job, but I have been energized by this opportunity to learn and experience a new culture and support the recovery of the people of Puerto Rico.



Discussion on compassion following potluck; October 28

Donations

Friends, this is a reminder that we don't pass a collection plate or otherwise badger for donations. But we still need money to operate, and most of that comes from donations from members and attenders. How much is really up to each family or individual – the average is somewhere around \$700 per family unit, but some give more and some give less. Anything is better than nothing! How to donate is described below, with more info on the website (www.yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/donations/).

Donations to Yardley Friends Meeting can be made in several ways:

- Simply write a check to Yardley Friends Meeting and drop it in the donations box or mail it to Yardley Friends Meeting, 56 North Main St., Yardley, PA 19067.
- Ask your bank to send a paper check, usually on a regular (monthly) basis. More and more folks have elected this option. You have to talk to your bank but most offer this kind of service. NOTE: You can use this for other payments, say Baldwin Fund loan repayments. Just put that on the memo line, and to be sure, let Ted Taylor know to look for it.
- By credit card or ACH through PYM - see website for details.
- In-kind donations of stock using a broker - see website for details.

Speaking of money...

As discussed at our November 26 adult ed session, we have several funds set aside for specific purposes. Here is a super-quick recap; if you want more information please contact Ed Snyder or Ted Taylor.

Baldwin Scholarship Fund - No interest loans for education

Memorial Assistance Fund - Aid to members, and others as determined, in need of special or emergency financial need. Administered by Pastoral Care.

L. Cadwallader Memorial Fund - Flowers and other Recognitions and Remembrances

Property Improvement Fund - Major YFM property needs

Sonntag Fund: Education grants to Quaker schools (Remaining funds of \$12,168 used to purchase additional shares of FFC on 2/18/06)

Shepp Fund - To aid Members and Attenders of YFM to participate in Conferences and other Quaker activities

Laura P. Cadwallader Bequest - The "advancement of Christian precepts and especially for the historic testimony of Friends pertaining to peace and temperance" except that 50% of the annual interest may be used for "property improvements" if members of the meeting contribute a like amount.

Endowment Fund - available for any purpose; currently used as the primary source of funding for Children's Religious Education teachers.

Newsletter cut-off is the 25th of each month. Contact me with articles. Ed Snyder ed@mrplansinc.com