

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

March 2018

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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

March 4

Committee meetings following Meeting for Worship

March 11

Meeting for Business following Meeting for Worship

March 18

Seed planting following Meeting for Worship. Work with First Day School to plant wildflower seeds for Spring Fling giveaway.

March 25

Adult education following Meeting for Worship - FCNL rep here; more info on page 3

Looking ahead

April 7

Saturday, 6 PM. Potluck to discern priorities for FCNL; more info on page 4

Around the Quarter/PYM/Local events

March 24

PYM Continuing Sessions

March 25

BQM intervisitation at Doylestown MM

Looking ahead

April 7

Quakerism in a Nutshell - Wrightstown Meetinghouse

May 19 & 20

Quarterly Meeting weekend at Camp Onas

July 25-29

PYM Summer Sessions at TCNJ

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

Your Francis and Betty Irwin calendar inspiration for the month

I was always looking outside myself for strength and confidence, but it comes from within. It is there all the time.

Anna Freud Austria

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

Joy

Joy. The word joy keeps coming up from many different sources. Happiness is something everyone strives for. Joy is said to be something deep within.

Sometimes someone says something in a way that catches your attention and makes you think. Van Jones talked of joy in his book *Beyond the Messy Truth*. He talks about the mass murder by Dylann Roof in Charleston, South Carolina at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was among many people gathered outside on a day following the shooting. Uplifting singing came from the church. Someone asked how they could be so happy at a time like this. The response was that wasn't happiness, it was joy. They explained the difference. Happiness depends on external circumstances. Joy is within. "They are saying we are strong and you aren't going to take us down."

Next I read *The Book of Joy*, which was recommended at one of our compassion pot lucks. The Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu are questioned throughout the book. Neither has had an easy life. The Dalai Lama and the Buddhist people were forced to flee to India during the 1959 Tibetan uprising. He lives as a refugee to this day. Archbishop Desmond Tutu took an active role in opposition to South Africa's apartheid system of racial segregation and white-minority. How they could be so joyful is the basic topic of the book.

Joy doesn't come from being overly optimistic and thinking the world is perfect. It comes from realizing it isn't and going on from there. Helping others and doing what you can help to create joy.

The Book of Joy talks of doing for others as something that brings joy. It seems a paradox. When we think only of ourselves, something is missing. When we reach out to help others, we find joy.

They also talk of a daily ritual that brings them joy. For the Dalai Lama it is meditation. For the Archbishop it is prayer. For everyone there can be a daily ritual that brings them joy. For me it is yoga and meditation. At times the weight on my shoulders can seem insurmountable. After my routine it just doesn't feel so bad. Continued routine changes perspective in life. This isn't about any one religion or necessarily religion at all. It is something that may not be easy to find, but we all can find it. The way isn't the same for everyone. Yoga or meditation, prayers, running, being at Yardley Meeting are among the things that may bring joy.

We talk in Quakerism about inner peace. This seems similar to joy. Sitting together in silence can be a life changing experience

I believe that deep joy is something that spreads. Finding joy can help each individual and everyone together face the challenges with a different frame of mind. Answering problems we face with inner joy is less overwhelming.

Finding our inner peace and doing good for others is bound to make us feel better. If everyone does so the world can't help being a better place.

As I started to prepare to write a quote popped out at me. "Joy is a net of love by which you catch souls" - Mother Teresa.

A place to stay near Washington DC!

Linda Sepe lives 12 miles from DC and has graciously offered her home as a place to stay if you are demonstrating, lobbying, or otherwise spending time there. You can reach out to Linda at LSepeCoach@aol.com.

Third Query, Spiritual Nurture, Ministry, and Religious Education

Does our Meeting encourage the ministry of both word and deed? How does our Meeting recognize, develop, and nurture the gifts of our members and attenders of all ages?

Does our Meeting prepare all its members and children for worship and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends?

How do we teach about Quaker practices in business and worship and their importance to the functioning of our Meeting community?

In what ways do we support each other in order to seek God's will and act upon our understanding of truth?

Is there opportunity in our Meeting to share the excitement of religious discovery and the possibility of religious transformation?

Does our Meeting provide opportunities for all in the Meeting to learn about:

- the Inner Light, the living Christ within, the Bible, the writings of Friends, our Christian heritage, other religious traditions and their respective roles in the history and formation of Friends' principles?
- the common testimonies Friends declare?
- the variety of expression Quaker faith takes today?

Do I maintain as part of my personal and family life those daily practices that focus on continued spiritual growth, with disciplined worship, inward retirement, and communion with the divine spirit?

Do I frequently read the Bible and other religious literature, including the records of the lives and experiences of Friends? Do I take the time to explore these resources with others, and likewise encourage my children?

Do I share my own faith and spiritual journey, and encourage such sharing within my family?

!!!FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION IS VISITING YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING ON SUNDAY MARCH 25!!!

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) lobbies Congress and the Administration to advance peace, justice, opportunity, and environmental stewardship. FCNL has an expert team of lobbyists on Capitol Hill and works with a grassroots network of tens of thousands of people across the country to advance policies and priorities established by their governing General Committee. Their mission is to build relationships across political divides in order to move policies forward.

Margaret Mansfield is a representative to FCNL's General Committee and an experienced lobbyist. She will be presenting a short overview of all the facets of what they do and how they do it on Sunday, March 25 following Meeting and a short Elevenes! Please join us to see how FCNL acts in faith to create a world where every person's potential may be fulfilled and the earth restored!

(See related article immediately following. Thanks to Peg Smedley for both articles.)

**FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL) PRIORITIES
DISCERNMENT SESSION/POTLUCK APRIL 7, 2018 @6PM**

Yardley Friends Meeting will be gathering Friends and Attenders on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 6PM for a Potluck dinner followed by a process of worship sharing and discernment related to national issues and concerns. These will be issues and concerns that FCNL will seek to advance across the political spectrum through their lobbying and public education work during the next two years.

Prior to the Potluck on Saturday, April 7, 2018, please seriously consider which national issues and concerns FCNL should focus on to advance peace and justice. These issues will both guide the work of FCNL's professional lobbyists in Washington DC and help FCNL steer their grassroots energy. We have been asked by FCNL to identify no more than 7 priorities. This will be a challenge as there are so many important national issues. Please keep that in mind as we choose our prime concerns. Our priorities will be submitted to FCNL by April 13, 2018.

To help us in this important process, please attend the adult education session on Sunday, March 25. A representative of FCNL will be presenting a short overview of what they do and how they do it.

Report from the Gun Violence Prevention subcommittee

Yardley Friends Meeting held a Called Meeting for Worship in November 2017 as a result of serious concerns regarding the mass shooting in Nevada in October 2017 and the accelerating level of gun violence in the US in general.

At that Called Meeting it was agreed that a subcommittee of the Peace and Social Action Committee would be formed in order to address our concerns and find one or more actions that the Meeting and Members/Attenders might take to impact gun violence at a local, state and/or federal level.

The Gun Violence Prevention subcommittee has met 4 times since December 2017.

After considerable discussion of this large and daunting issue, the subcommittee concurs that our focus is twofold:

1. Encouraging voting in accordance with common sense gun safety and gun control measures and familiarizing the Meeting and/or Meeting Members and Attenders with our Legislators and Candidates and their respective positions on these matters.
2. Familiarizing and engaging the Meeting and/or Meeting Members and Attenders with the numerous organizations which have substantial gun safety and control initiatives in place.

Due to the upcoming Primary Elections, the subcommittee will initiate timely communications to YFM via the Google Group (actually started in February), so that Members/Attenders can familiarize themselves with the Incumbents and Candidates and their respective positions on gun safety and control. The subcommittee strives to be non-partisan and will identify events for all political parties whenever possible.

We are also working on the best way to familiarize Meeting Members and Attenders with links to the numerous Gun Control/Safety organizations without inundating everyone with too much information!

continued...

We generally meet bimonthly at the Meeting House. The dates and times are at the end of the minutes and we would love to have your input! If you have any questions or comments please contact Peg Smedley or Deb Little (co-chairs of the subcommittee)

Our next meeting will be held at the Meeting House on Tuesday, March 13 at 7PM.

Canal Clean-Up Day

Saturday, April 7, 2018 | 9:00 AM

The annual canal of the entire canal is taking place on Saturday April 7th. Yardley Friends meeting is the canal tender from Mt Eyre Road to Afton Avenue. Please let Eileen Killleen know if you'll be able to join us for the clean up @ eileenk29@gmail.com and/or look for a sign up sheet at the meeting house.

