

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

January 2019

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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

Jan 6

Committee Meetings following Meeting for Worship.

Jan 13

8:30. Men's Group.

Meeting for Business following Meeting for Worship.

Jan 20

Adult education following Meeting for Worship –
"Understanding Islam" with Graham Leonard.

Jan 27

Adult education following Meeting for Worship –
"Health Care Chaplaincy as Quaker Ministry" with
Ted Taylor.

Looking ahead

Simple Gifts folk duo, **May 11**. Workshop in the
afternoon, concert in the evening. Save the date!

Around the Quarter/PYM

Jan 20

1-4:30 pm. Friendly Decision Making; A Curious
Thing with Arthur Larrabee, Buckingham
Meetinghouse

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

Your Francis and Betty Irwin calendar inspiration for the month

We are reminded that in the fleeting time we have
on this Earth, what matters is not wealth or status
or power or fame, but rather how well we have
loved and what small part we have played in
making the lives of other people better.

Barack Obama

If you have info for the next newsletter, please e-mail me at ed@mrppplansinc.com. We welcome book
reviews, opinions, random thoughts as well as news.

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.**

Newsletters can be found on our website at <http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/news/>

Diversity in Meeting

Recently I took part in a Clearness for Membership. Clearness involves deep listening to discover a way forward for membership, marriage or a personal concern. Clearness has rewards not only for the person seeking clearness. It enriches everyone involved. Thoughts and deep feelings are shared. Clearness for membership is a total joy. The depth of feeling when someone is ready to join Meeting is wonderful!

Reading the questions in Faith and Practice for clearness brought to light a question I forgot was there: "Do you welcome participation in a religious community whose unity of spirit coexists with a diversity of beliefs? Are you prepared to join a meeting community which includes people whose perspectives differ considerably from your own?"

We often talk about the belief that everyone thinks alike in Meeting. Some people have reminded others to be accepting of the fact that not all of us do think alike. Others are bothered when they find certain differences of opinion within our community.

Quakers are Seekers. There is something in each of us that makes us look for what we uniquely believe. A religion that tells us what to believe is not what most of us are looking for. With this in mind, it makes sense that our fundamental beliefs differ. Differences give us the opportunity to learn and grow through each other. Try listening without out judging or critiquing. Let our stillness make room for our continued growth.

It's been said we lack diversity. A recent speaker, Richie Schulz, started by pointing out the diversity in the room. He stated a list of things that made us diverse. It can be past religions, age, backgrounds, gender and sexual orientation, race, beliefs. It isn't just color of skin that makes people diverse. So many different things make each of us who we are. Diversity is so much more than meets the eye and it is a gift.

We all have our own back story. The majority of us are coming from other religions and backgrounds. Everything in each life makes us who we are. Even within a family, no two people are alike. The more we get to know each other, the more we get to appreciate who everyone is. One thing essential to all Quakers is we believe in the light in everyone. All Light together shines brightly!

I wish everyone a Happy New Year. Have faith in our Light. The world can be a scary place. Everyone who works to spread love makes it better. Our Meeting shines with welcome and warmth. Let's do all we can individually and together to be a community for each other and to increase our light to a bigger circle.



Candlelight worship 2018

Query 1. Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Worship

Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God?

As we worship in the living silence, are we drawn together by the power of God in our midst? Do we experience a deep reverence for the integrity of creation?

How does our worship nurture all worshipers, creating a deeper sense of community?

How does our meeting encourage vocal ministry that spiritually nurtures the worshiping community?

Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?

Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationships with other persons and with all of creation?

Does worship enhance my capacity for attentive, non-judgmental listening to others?

How does participation in meeting for worship contribute to my life-long spiritual journey?



Christmas Play 2018

