

# YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

## NEWSLETTER

December 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 Snyder, Clerk  
Ed Snyder, Newsletter Editor

### *This month at YFM*

#### **Dec 1**

Committee Meetings following rise of Meeting

#### **Dec 7**

Holiday party at the meetinghouse begins at 6:00; catered dinner (BYOB) and decoration setup following dinner. Contact Linda Jacobs Snyder for info and RSVP.

#### **Dec 8**

Women's Group meets at 8:30  
Men's Group meets at 8:30  
Business Meeting following rise of Meeting

#### **Dec 15**

Children's play following rise of Meeting

#### **Dec 20**

Candlelight worship, 7-8 PM

#### **Dec 26**

Red Cross Blood Drive at the Meetinghouse; 12-5

### *Around the Quarter/PYM*

#### **Dec 14**

60th Annual Nazareth to Bethlehem  
Christmas Peace Pilgrimage – starts 10:45 AM  
<https://www.peacewalk.org/>

#### **Dec 14**

Winter 2019 Quaker Family Meetup at  
Birmingham Friends Meeting (West Chester).  
3-5:30

#### **Dec 15**

Aging Series- End of Life Planning at Newtown  
Meeting. 12:30-1:45

#### **Dec 16**

Bucks Food for Friends, Fallsington. 5:30-7:30

### *Looking ahead*

#### **Jan 3**

Young Adult Friends Winter Retreat at Chestnut  
Hill Friends Meeting

For more details and to see info on more  
activities in the Quarter, see the latest  
Quakerphernalia at [quakersbucks.org](http://quakersbucks.org).

If you have articles or announcements for  
Quakerphernalia, please contact Wendy Kane, the  
coordinator, at [quakersbucks@gmail.com](mailto:quakersbucks@gmail.com).

### **Your Francis and Betty Irwin calendar inspiration for the month**

He believed that one man can make a difference and  
every man should try.

Jacqueline Kennedy about John F Kennedy

Newsletters can be found on our website at <http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/news/> Email articles, pictures,  
book reviews, events to [ed@mrpplansinc.com](mailto:ed@mrpplansinc.com).

## The Joy of Giving

At this time I think of giving for two reasons. It's the holiday season. At the end of November we have a holiday to give thanks. December we think of giving. Too often it can be in the form of overblown commercialism. It's also opening your hearts to those in need and all those you come in contact with.

I've read a few books recently that talks about happiness and well being. One theme that comes out in all of them is doing for others makes those who do so feel better. It is a win-win situation! We all know there are so many that need help. Sometimes it's monetary. There are so many other ways we help others. Even a kind word or a smile can make a big difference.

The work we do in the world helps others and makes our life more meaningful. We learn and get to know people.

Remember to bring gloves, scarves and socks to decorate the Christmas tree. Bring food stuff too! This goes to Mercer Street Friends. Be thankful for all we have! Remember many things we take for granted, other people don't have.

This is a time to be more deliberate about what we do. At the Women's group the idea of a project to help others came up. There are so many directions we can take. If you have ideas, mention it. Don't underestimate the many things you do now that helps others. Realize that every little thing counts! All the little things from everyone put together goes a long way to changing the world.

The other reason to write about giving is it's my last month as clerk of Yardley Meeting. Before saying "yes" to taking it on, I thought of all the work it would be and if I had time. It is work. Some days or weeks are more work than others. Mostly it is joy and learning and striving to be one with the spirit of Meeting. The phrase "Sense of the Meeting" is learned but it's through time and experience that it becomes more understood. Quakers believe spirituality comes not only by a special time of worship but how we live our life.

Being somewhat "in charge" is actually being charged with learning, understanding and doing for a greater good. All that I've learned in life time comes to play in what I do. Everyone is a mentor from the tiniest child to each of you. I can only begin to trace the people and the books and experience that I can call mentor. I learn that it is towards something greater than myself that I need to work. Living with this in mind enables life to be fuller and more universal.

In the coming year Peg Smedley and Ted Taylor will be co-clerks of Meeting. Each has a different and diverse background. They bring to the meeting an open heart and mind. I'm looking forward to how the work of the Meeting moves through them.

I look forward to ways I can be of help to the Meeting and new clerks. I'm so thankful I've had the opportunity to be clerk.

For each of us, giving contains many rewards. Have confidence in your inner light and let it guide you to give and learn, enriching your life along with the lives of others.

## Query 12. Witnessing in the World: Witness and Civic Responsibility

What is our meeting doing:

To become aware of systemic legal, economic and political injustices in our local community?

To build relationships with other faith communities around common concerns?

To reduce polarization within the larger community?

To work together with others to address injustice?

How does our meeting assist in restoring public recognition that government fulfills legitimate functions?

*Am I mindful of how my lifestyle, work-life and investments affect others?*

*Am I open to seeking clearness on matters of conscience? Am I open to assisting others in doing so?*

*Do I fulfill my civic responsibilities when they do not conflict with divine leading?*

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### Ideas to Lower Our Carbon Footprint During the Holidays

Over the past few months there have been several adult education programs from the Peace and Social Concerns Committee focused on sustainability and care of the planet we all call home. As we enter the holiday season perhaps we can keep in mind how we can continue to protect, restore and fund to support the goal of a healthy planet.

#### Let's Remember the Spirituality of the Season

##### Less is More, Relax and Slow Down, Connect with the Season, and Connect with Others

Here are a few ideas to get us started and perhaps you can think of many more:

Gifts:

- Items that help people lower their carbon footprint like YFM stainless steel water bottles, YFM reusable bags and compost bins, energy saving light bulbs.
- Healthy treats like dried fruit and nuts, herbal teas, homemade baked goods, apple cider, dried herbs, locally made gifts and handcrafts, homemade bird feeders, your used books and CD's, all without packaging or fossil fuel delivery.
- Use recycled paper or decorative towels or baskets for gift-wrap, send electronic greeting cards, experiential gifts like going out to eat, a movie, a play, concert or a museum, nature walks, friend and family small gatherings.
- Donate time or money or needed items to an environmental or humanitarian cause, like the children's gloves and hats at YFM.
- Give to collections for local food pantries. There is a box in the entry at YFM.
- Getting a new cell Phone? You can drop off your old one at any Staples for recycling.
- Do you receive unwanted holiday catalogs? If so you can cancel them to save on paper and delivery.

Decorations:

- Use indoor LED light bulbs to reduce energy and to prevent outdoor light pollution. You can put them around the inside of a window. Put lights on a timer.

- Save a tree and use natural trimmings, such as pinecones and small tree cuttings of holly and pine, strings of cranberries and popcorn. Buy a live small tree you can later plant. If you do purchase a cut tree find an organization that will recycle your Christmas tree.
- In Doylestown Christmas Tree Recycling Announcements will be made each year where Bucks County residents may drop off their Christmas trees (free of all ornaments, garland tinsel and nails) at the Borough Public Works yard for shredding and recycling. Call 215-345-4140 after January 1, 2020.

Festivities with food and drink:

- Take good care of yourself with the gift of healthy eating, nourishment and mindfulness. Avoid buying excess that will create food waste.
- Shop for local, fair trade and organic foods and beverages.

*From the Peace and Social Action Committee*

### **...more on reducing your Carbon Footprint...**

Peace and Social Action led adult discussions on this topic on October 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Here are the links to the three videos that were shown, for those who are interested but missed the presentation (or were there but want to re-visit!).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Q0xUXo2zEY>

<https://www.recycleacup.com/demo2/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YseZXKfT\\_yY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YseZXKfT_yY)

The thing to do if you are interested in learning what your carbon footprint is and what kind of carbon tax you can pay to help equalize your footprint:

<https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>

### **Cookies for Yardley Santa's Workshops**

As is our recent custom, we will provide cookies for Yardley's Santa's workshops on the following days:

December 7<sup>th</sup> (day of the Christmas Parade) from around 4 pm to 7 pm (or when the kids are finished seeing Santa)

December 14<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6 pm

December 21<sup>st</sup> from 4 to 6 pm

If you can provide cookies for any of these events, please contact Ed Snyder: [ed@mrplansinc.com](mailto:ed@mrplansinc.com) or 609/647-5026.

They can be bought or homemade – to the extent we don't get enough volunteers we will buy some. If you would like to assist at the scene, let me know.

*Ed Snyder*



A happy group following Mercy's welcome dinner. Thanks Carol K for setting this up and submitting to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for the Quaker Self Portrait project.