

# YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

## NEWSLETTER

February 2020

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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

Peg Smedley and Ted Taylor, Co-Clerks  
Ed Snyder, Newsletter Editor

### *This month at YFM*

#### **Feb 2**

Committee Meetings following rise of Meeting

#### **Feb 9**

Women's Group meets at 8:30

Men's Group meets at 8:30

Business Meeting following rise of Meeting

#### **Feb 16**

No adult education (Quarterly Meeting)

#### **Feb 23**

Adult education following Rise of Meeting; TBD

### *Looking ahead*

#### **Mar 12 (Thursday, 7 PM)**

David E. McCraw, Deputy General Counsel at The New York Times, will discuss his new book *Truth In Our Times: Inside the Fight for Press Freedom in the Age of Alternative Facts* – see article and flyer

### *Around the Quarter/PYM*

#### **Feb 17**

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

#### **Feb 16**

Quarterly Meeting, at Middletown; details:  
9:30-10:45

**Adult Program:** Vanessa Julye, co-author of *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans and the Myth of Racial Justice* will share about her work on increasing awareness of racism in the Quaker and sectarian communities

**Children's Program:** Young Friends will learn about Quakers from Bucks County and their role in the Underground Railroad

11:15 Meeting for Worship

12:00 Brown bag lunch

1:00 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

### *Looking ahead*

#### **Jul 29-Aug 2**

PYM Annual Sessions

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**

The future belongs to those who believe in the  
beauty of their dreams.

Eleanor Roosevelt

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).

## Messages from your new co-clerks

### Peg Smedley

As some of you know, I've been a Friend all my life. It's been an integral part of me. Forever! In spite of all these years as a Quaker, I've never served as Clerk or Co-Clerk until now. Initially when approached, I was hesitant to take on the full responsibility of serving as Clerk of Yardley Monthly Meeting. When I learned that Yardley Meeting member Ted Taylor was contemplating Co-Clerk responsibilities, I felt immediate ease and looked forward to talking with him about the possibility of doing the job together.

Ted and I have had the opportunity to talk several times about sharing responsibilities and we were also able to attend the Clerking Workshop at Pendle Hill in November 2019. The Workshop was led by longtime Friend Arthur Larrabee and we were surrounded by fifty or so Clerks or incoming Clerks of Monthly Meetings from all over the US. I loved every minute of the Workshop. I was in the midst of a group of loving Quakers committed to nurturing and supporting their individual Meetings. I was exactly where I needed to be.

With Ted's help I will love and care for Yardley Friends Meeting with all my heart!

### Ted Taylor

Unlike Peg, I became a convinced Friend nearly 20 years ago, following a spiritual sojourn of being raised as a Southern Baptist, attending a Baptist seminary, and serving as a United Methodist pastor in the late 1990s. The meeting's recording of my chaplaincy ministry, which includes clinical pastoral supervision, has been a highlight of my spiritual and professional life. And now I assume the joy and responsibility, with my partner Peg, to help lead our meeting in its collective discernment over the next two years. I am humbled (a lot), anxious (a bit), and grateful (enormously) to have Peg as our co-clerk.

As Peg noted, we have been preparing ourselves for this leadership task for the past couple of months. And we are still finding our way. We are grateful for the mentoring work Linda Jacobs Snyder graciously extends, and for the loving patience and Light-holding all of you continue to offer as we both negotiate our paths in these new leadership roles.

This promises to be an exciting year ahead for Yardley Friends, continuing the important work of social justice in our local community and wider world, as well as the spiritual and pastoral nurture of our worshipping community. And on the near horizon, a substantial financial gift received at the end of last year is available for us to invest in needed renovations to our meeting's building and grounds. Exciting!

I share Peg's heartfelt love for our meeting and invite our continued commitment together to deepen the spiritual life and expand the social witness of Yardley Friends in 2020.



Peg, Ted and acting Recording Clerk Kathy Clabby. Photo courtesy of Jeff Bishop

## Query 2. Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Business

Is our meeting for business held in worship in which we seek divine guidance?

How do we sustain prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and address difficult problems with a search for truth that is unhurried by the pressures of time?

Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?

*Do I regularly attend meeting for business? If unable to attend, how do I fulfill the responsibility to understand and embrace the decisions made?*

*How do I affirm and support God's presence in the process of discernment and reaching a decision?*

*Do I remain open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?*

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### Speaker coming to Yardley Friends Meeting

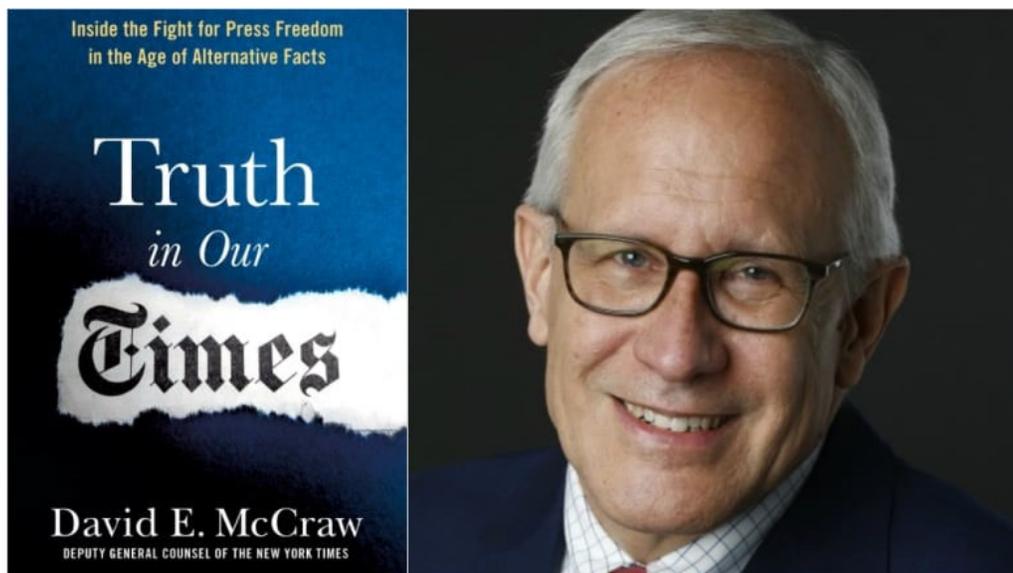
Thursday, March 12th, at 7:00PM, David McCraw, Deputy General Counsel of The New York Times, will be speaking about his new book "Truth in Our Times: The Press, The President, and the Future of the First Amendment."

This book is a first person account of the legal battles that helped shape The Times's coverage of Donald Trump, Harvey Weinstein, foreign policy, and the rise of political partisanship in America. As the lead newsroom lawyer for The Times, McCraw has witnessed first-hand how the proliferation of disinformation, threats against the press, and accusations of "fake news" represent an unprecedented challenge to journalists trying to hold power accountable. His book looks at the changing landscape of press freedom in America today and the unsettling question of whether the First Amendment is at risk.

The talk will be followed by refreshments and a chance to purchase the book and have it signed by David McCraw.

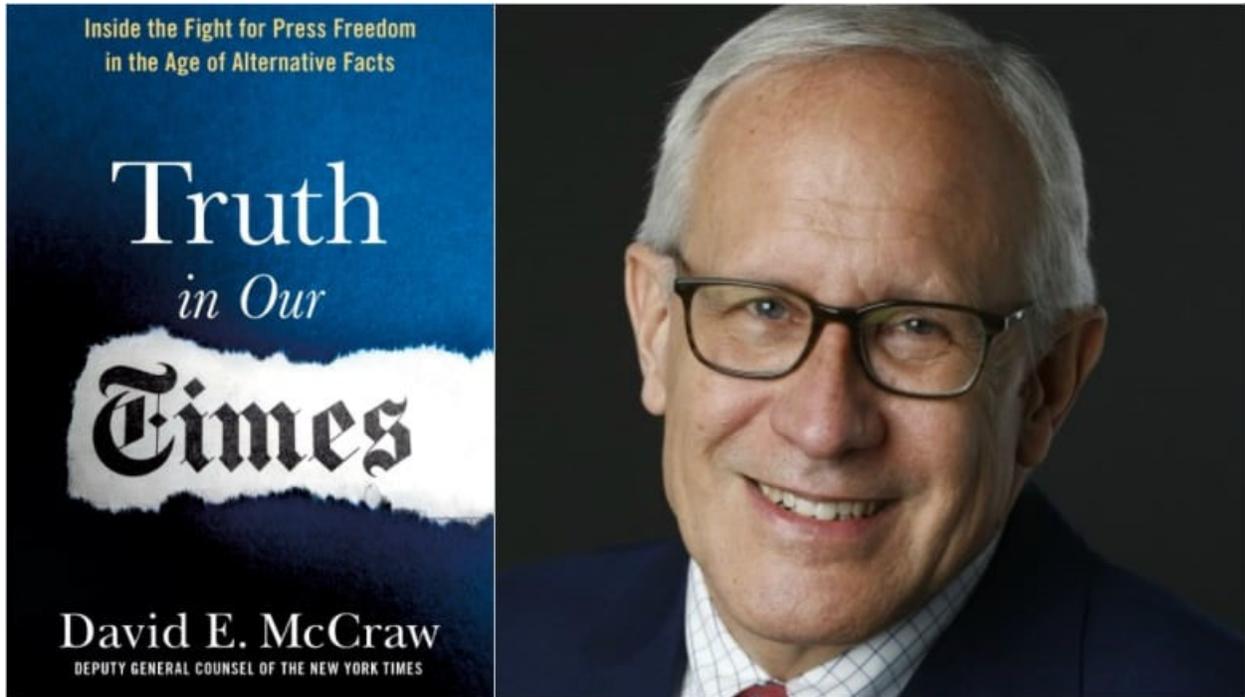
Please post a flyer (see next page), put this on Facebook and your neighborhood community bulletin boards. The evening promises to be a very informative. We wish to share it with our local community. Let your friends know!

There is no charge to attend but please let us know you are coming. For reservations email [info@yardleyfriendsmeeting.org](mailto:info@yardleyfriendsmeeting.org) or call Linda at 215 208-5389.



# Yardley Friends Meeting

presents



**Thursday, March 12th, at 7:00PM**

David E. McCraw, Deputy General Counsel at The New York Times, will discuss his new book ***Truth In Our Times: Inside the Fight for Press Freedom in the Age of Alternative Facts***

Following the talk please join us for snacks and a book signing

There is no charge for this event but please RSVP to reserve your space,  
or contact us with questions:

[info@yardleyfriendsmeeting.org](mailto:info@yardleyfriendsmeeting.org) or call 215 208 5389

Yardley Friends Meeting,  
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