

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

NEWSLETTER

May 2021

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65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067

<http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/>

Meeting for Worship 10:00–11:00 (til 10:45 currently for Zoom/COVID)

First Day School 10:15–11:00 (currently suspended – *but see page 3 for a new feature, Space for Young Friends*)

Peg Smedley and Linda Jacobs Snyder, Co-Clerks
Ed Snyder, Newsletter Editor

This month at YFM

Zoom Meetings for Worship continue at the normal 10 AM Sunday time. Onsite outdoor worship by the outside fireplace is held concurrently, with a Zoom feed – depending on the weather. ***Please check the google group emails Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning to confirm onsite worship.***

Women's group Wednesdays at 2:30 PM.

Committee Meetings on the first First Day, following Meeting for Worship.

Business Meeting on the second First Day, following Meeting for Worship. (No MFB in May.)

Around the Quarter/PYM

Quakerphernalia, the Bucks Quarter newsletter, is being sent almost entirely electronically. If you are not on the list, or if you have articles or announcements for Quakerphernalia, please contact Wendy Kane, the coordinator, at quakersbucks@gmail.com.

Check out the (***new and improved***) quarter website: <https://www.quakersbucks.org/> for other news and events.

Inspiration for the month

Only when we see that we are part of the totality of the planet, not a superior part with special privileges, can we work effectively to bring about an earth restored to wholeness.

Darkness is no less desirable than light. It is rather, a rich source of creativity... First there is the darkness of the earth in which the seeds wait all through the winter. Second, there is the darkness of the womb in which the young mammal grows into sufficient viability to be born and take its place on earth, as a separate being.... And third, there is the darkness of night, when the garish sun has gone down and the things of earth are blotted out, and we may glimpse the vastness of the universe of which we are part...

We say that God is the Inner Light, but I want to affirm that also the Inner Darkness, and I do not mean desolation or evil, but a quiet waiting and creativity. "The darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to thee."

Elizabeth Watson, "Your God is Too Small", 1996

I found this on the Landsdowne Friends Meeting website - Ed

Query 5. Nurturing Our Community: Religious Education in the Home and Meeting

How does our meeting prepare its members, attenders and children for worship, for the conduct of its business and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends?

What opportunities do we provide for all in the meeting to learn about Friends' history, practices and testimonies, the Judeo-Christian tradition, the life and teachings of Jesus, and other religious traditions?

How does our meeting's religious education program provide experiential learning that enhances the sense of belonging to our worshipping community?

How do I help create a home where all members of the family receive affection and understanding and where visitors are welcome?

How does my manner of living enrich body, mind and spirit; enable all to learn what it means to live a life of Spirit-led commitment; and demonstrate a high regard for family, community and the integrity of creation?

How do I engage with my family and others who are dear to me regarding such sensitive topics as death, faith, money, sex and drugs?

CLERK'S CORNER

By Linda Jacobs Snyder

Unity and An Open Mind

Many think that Friends strive for consensus when making decisions. It is unity we seek. Unity is hard to describe. It doesn't necessary mean we all agree. For unity each person needs to discern not only their leadings but the leadings of others. With this is faith in the realization that you never know who at any time will come up with the best answer.

Recently I read "I Take Thee Serenity" by Daisy Newman. It's a novel I read about Quakerism when I first came to meeting. Over 20 years later I decided to read it again. The first time I learned things describing life of a Quaker. Today these things are embedded in who I am. To me the book reflects the essence of Quakerism.

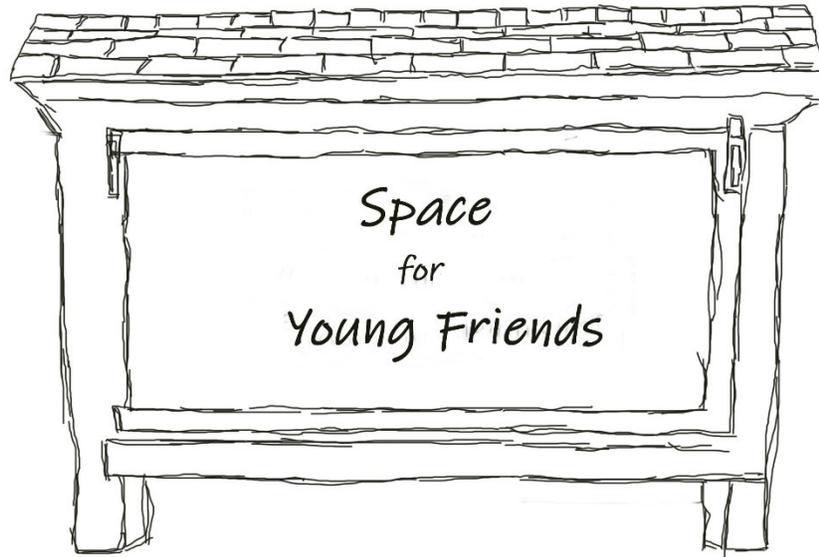
One part of the book was about Meeting for Business. Serenity ponders what Quakers mean by unity. It appeared that nobody agreed on anything. Everyone had a different answer. She goes on to tell of an old vacant Meetinghouse their meeting owned and hadn't used in years. The question was what to do with it. Some wanted to rehabilitate it for history's sake. Others thought with too many needy people the money gained by selling it could help others. They went back and forth. There didn't seem to be any agreement. Finally someone suggested renovating it and making it into a center young and old could use. This addressed both issues and the Meeting came to unity.

That search for unity is spread through so many things in the life of a Quaker. It's not only at meeting but in our personal lives.

Quakers are taught to come to worship ready to be open to spirit. Reading "Think Again" by Adam Grant reminded me of many Quaker ways. It isn't a Quaker book but he mentions in a place or two that the things he is talking about are part of the ways of Quakers. These ways come through in the way we conduct Meeting for Business, hold a Clearness Committee, understand and care for each other and the world outside. It can help us to communicate with those whose beliefs are different than ours.

Quakers believe in continuous revelation. We are a work in progress personally and collectively. Can you imagine a life where we no longer learn and grow? Grant states how important it is to not get caught completely in our own way of thinking. Diversity of thought helps us go deeper to find the best answers. Stay curious about what we may be missing.

Sometimes too many minds don't appear to be better than one. They seem to slow things down to a point of never getting anything done or compromising into the wrong answer. Basing our decisions not on personal opinions but values can be helpful. Think of the search for unity like a dance. We don't always find unity. There are times we agree to disagree. Hopefully we've gathered a better understanding and learned. We continue to search for common ground. Somehow a way will open if it is meant to be. This way of thinking opens the world in everything we do.



We would like to invite Young Friends to join us for outdoor Meeting for Worship over the next few months. Hope to see you there.

If any Young Friends can help us with weeding in the Meetinghouse yard, please get in touch with me and I will meet you there at a time you are available. carolseuffert@gmail.com

“SENSES, APPEARANCE, ESSENCE and EXISTENCE The worlds we see with our senses are very different than the world we see through our essence. Our senses perceive the world of appearance, Our essence perceive the deeper layers of existence. The first step of perceiving the world of essence is not to have any goal than to understand. “Understanding” has to be the ultimate goal, then we can solve these problems.”
Peter Kabakci

For June’s Newsletter, we would like to receive photographs of something that you have taken “very up-close” or at an odd angle, to see if adults or other Young Friends can guess what you are trying to show us. Senses can mislead us. What one person is trying to show will be interpreted by people in many different ways. What appears to be a close-up of a bottle cap may actually be a mother spider. If you were to step on it, you may be injuring the baby spiders’ mother. In June we will list everyone’s guesses and hope to show how easy it is to misinterpret an image. Then if more information is given about the image and guess again, will they be more likely to interpret the image in a similar way, or will they be more likely to interpret the image accurately?

Please submit your photograph to miRachel@aol.com by May 20th. Maybe yours will be the first one chosen, and be printed in June’s newsletter! Good luck!

BRAIN CHALLENGE: What is a food, when dried, has a different name? For example, a grape becomes a raisin. Send your challenge to: miRachel@aol.com Submit your idea by May 20th.

Yardley Monthly Meeting Children’s Religious Education Committee

Any questions about access to the google group or anything else, please write to info@yardleyfriendsmeeting.org.