

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

NEWSLETTER

June 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

A Red Cross blood drive will be held on June 4 from 2-7. **All slots are already filled.** We will just open and close the Meetinghouse and leave it vacant until...well, until we are able to use it again, which is apparently not soon enough to worry about transmission on surfaces.

Other on-site activities continue to be on hold. We are holding Zoom virtual Meeting for Worship at the usual 10 AM Sunday time, plus a mid-week virtual Meeting at 7 PM Thursdays. Please stay tuned on the google group and/or the website. If you are not connected on the google group, please, *please* feel free to reach out if you need information or assistance. If you don't have the contact list to call an individual directly, the Meetinghouse phone - (215) 493-5376 - is forwarded to the co-clerks. You can also write to info@yardleyfriendsmeeting.org, which is forwarded to the co-clerks as well.

If you are not on the google group and would like to be added, please send an e-mail to info@yardleyfriendsmeeting.org with a request to join.

Around the Quarter/PYM

June activities are shut down or postponed, or reconfigured as Zoom meetings.

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.

Looking ahead

Jul 29-Aug 2

PYM Annual Sessions (virtual):
<https://www.pym.org/annual-sessions/>

Your Francis and Betty Irwin calendar inspiration for the month

Wanting to be someone else is a waste of who
you are.

Kurt Cobain

Donations to Yardley Friends Meeting

Friends, one thing we are bad at is seeking donations. As the end of our fiscal year approaches (June 30), this is a good time to remind everyone that we rely mostly on contributions from members and attenders, with some additional revenue from the flea market and rentals, both of which are in jeopardy. Any support is welcome, especially in these difficult times. You can simply write a check and mail it to the Meetinghouse, or refer to the website for more ways to give: <https://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/donations/>. Thank you!

Newsletters can be found on our website at <http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/news/> Email articles, pictures, book reviews, events to ed@mrpplansinc.com. Feel free to share your experiences during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Query 6. Nurturing Our Community: Stewardship of Resources

How does our meeting accommodate ecological, economic and social justice in its uses of property and money?

Does our meeting engage its members in supporting the meeting's work, its ministry and the upkeep of its property?

Does our meeting encourage its members to support with their time, energy and finances the quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?

To what extent does our meeting rely on current members and attenders for financial support and to what extent on other sources?

How do I demonstrate in my own decision making a concern for ecological, economic and social justice?

How do I simplify my needs, making choices that balance self-sufficiency and fair sharing of resources?

Do I balance my work-life and other activities with the time and energy needed for my spiritual growth and service?

Do I contribute to the work of Friends in my meeting, in the quarterly and yearly meetings and in the wider world of Friends?

Reports and thoughts from the socially distanced

From George Oppenheimer

I enjoyed the newsletter very much. It seemed to contain much more inspiring material than usual and reflected the attitude of My Personal Creed:

Be always at peace within.
Accept reality without denial.
Seek to understand without prejudice.
Love all creatures.
Envision without boundaries.
Set magnificent goals.
Be undaunted by fear.
Speak truth.
Act with kindness.
Serve with fidelity.
Be empowered by giving.
Embrace unity with the universe.
BEHOLD THE JOY !

Hope you all have an adjustment that offers opportunities if you search for them. Love, George

From Betty Steckman:

Zoom, Zoom:
Virtual room;
A place to meet,
A social treat,
A computerly way to lift the gloom.

Zoom Zoom:
Virtual room
Where we can greet,
Though we can't eat.
But still our friendships bloom!

From Christine Breidenbach

Consider sponsoring a sheep! While Washington Crossing Historic Park may be closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 14 sheep at the Thompson-Neely Farmstead still need to eat and still require care.

<https://www.washingtoncrossingpark.org/sponsor-sheep/>

From Linda Jacobs Snyder:

Changes

When will life be normal? What will the new normal be? When will we be back in the Meetinghouse? What are we doing in the meantime?

This is a time like we've never had before and we've had times of big changes this century. We are all in this together yet everyone is having a different experience. Many of us are staying well but isolated. Others are experiencing different degrees of problems and hardships. How do we react?

Balance is always essential. Habits and the things we've always done help us feel comfortable. However, it's the ability to think outside the box and be willing to make changes that helps us make the best of life. This ability could be what helps us through and makes us grow.

I remember when Ted Taylor mentioned beginner's mind in Meeting for Worship. In reading a book by Parker Palmer I saw the term beginner's mind for the second time. Parker Palmer says he finds success in life and writing by looking at things he doesn't know instead of just concentrating on what he does know. We learn more when we admit we don't know everything. This is a core belief I feel strongly about.

If you are lucky enough to watch a baby grow, you see true beginner's mind. Everything is new. A carrot in the ground or an airplane overhead is new. They are seeing everything in the world for the first time. They build their world with excitement that is catchy.

It is easy as we age to get set in our ways. We figure how we've done things is the way it should be. We don't stop each time to think of something in a new light. Suddenly times come along that change is forced on us. As hard as this can be it sometimes also is an opportunity.

It might help right now to remember continuing revelation is a core concept of Quakerism. Continuing revelation comes from the light within. It encourages active attention to what is sacred in our day to day lives. Continuing revelation encourages an active search for truth and deeper understanding.

Many people are learning to do jobs differently. TV and radio shows are produced from home. Aspects of jobs that were done by a whole staff are often being done by one person. Teachers are teaching from zoom. Others will not have their old job to come back to and will have to figure what they are doing next. Meetings need to learn how to make worship and communication meaningful in new ways. In each case it takes ingenuity and learning new skills.

We really don't know what changes these times will bring. There are answers as we go, but many that can only be guessed. Some people may suffer sickness and loss. Businesses may close. Both the place you work and the place you love to dine may not be there when this is all over. We are all learning to communicate and meet in different ways.

What changes are adaptations we need to make just for now? Are there others that are paths to permanent change? Will some changes be incorporated to make our lives and the planet a better place? As things wind down will we remember to concentrate on the things that make us healthy and whole? Will we have gratitude for things we used to take for granted? Will a priority become ways to responsibly make our planet more connected?

Let's not forget continuous revelation and a beginners mind. Be well!