

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

NEWSLETTER

January 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)

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.

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*

What divides us pales in comparison to what unites us.

Ted Kennedy

*For years this little section was titled “Your Francis and Betty Irwin calendar inspiration for the month.”

Alas, the calendar is no longer produced. If you come across good quotes, please share them!



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

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?

CLERK'S CORNER

By Linda Jacobs Snyder

Go with the flow and worship with nature

These are difficult times. We've all been reminded this past year that health and long life can turn around at any time. This makes life scary. All of us have had restrictions placed on us. Many have extra duties and stress. I believe life is a gift. So I try with each day to find the things that make it special.

We all miss worshipping together in the Meetinghouse. I look forward to the day we are sitting together in worship. Following worship, with shaking hands at the break of Meeting and wandering into the social room for 11s to visit and snack. I don't think we'll ever take this time together for granted.

I must admit I am really enjoying worshipping by the fire outside in nature. I get lost in the embers and flames. Then look straight up into the dancing trees. Their bare limbs are beautiful. Some reach towards the sky, straight and narrow. Others curl in their own unique patterns. Like life, trees flow in so many different directions. I've watched a hawk fly by. For years I've walked by the fireplace and wondered if it was something we could use. I hope we continue to gather around the outside fire when we are back in the Meetinghouse. Maybe worship. Maybe a BBQ.

Recently we had a nor'easter. Snow storms slow down the world. We can't do what we normally have planned. Yet, there is a special quiet and calm. Perhaps quiet and calm is something we can bring with us into the winter.

I hope when we are back to normal we remember and continue new things. I for one want to make new habits. Learn new things. Challenge makes me look in new directions. How about you? Wishing you hope, health, happiness and promise in the new year.



Spotlight on... Peace and Environmental Concerns Fund

To my knowledge and recollection, this fund is underutilized at best. Please see the summary below and consider ways this fund could be used to benefit our Concerns. It is important to note that we, the Meeting (not the donor), set the rules for this fund and could change them if desired.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this fund is to provide individuals with the financial resources to contribute meaningfully to agencies/organizations who are doing work in the following areas:

- 1.) Peace-Making.
- 2.) Local Environmental Concerns.
- 3.) Supporting Attendance in Friends-related Events.
- 4.) Conscientious Objection Issues.
- 5.) Care of YFM Property.

SCOPE OF GRANTS: Individuals may request grants for:

- 1.) Their own personal "seeking" and self-improvement (i.e., attending Pendle Hill seminars and participation in PYM Events)
- 2.) Donation to a particular agency or organization that is doing work that falls under the five (5) designated areas of this fund (see items #1-5 under "Purpose")
- 3.) Individuals to use as part of their individual work with a given agency/or organization.

SIZE OF INDIVIDUAL GRANTS: Grant size shall be no less than \$250.00 and not exceed \$1,000.00 for any given specific request.

INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBMISSION OF REQUEST FOR GRANT: Only members of YFM of the Religious Society of Friends are eligible to apply for these grants.

TIME LIMIT: Individuals may submit their application for grants anytime during the year.

PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION: When an individual requests financial support (i.e., money grant for an "outside agency", tuition for seminar, contribution for conference, donations for an agency/organization), that individual shall follow the following procedure:

The respective standing committees will receive and evaluate the appropriateness of individual application for grants.

- 1.) Peace-related work will submit their written request to the clerk of Peace and Social Action.
- 2.) Local Environmental Issues and care of YFM Property will submit their written requests to the clerk of the Property Committee.
- 3.) Conscientious Objection and Attendance in Friends Events (i.e., seminars, conferences), should submit their request to the clerk of Pastoral Care.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS: Each standing committee is responsible for:

- 1.) Evaluating the appropriateness of each application
- 2.) Determining whether the application will be forwarded to the clerk of Monthly Meeting for consideration in the next Meeting for Worship for Business.
- 3.) If the standing committee does forward the application for grant to the clerk of Monthly Meeting, the clerk of that standing committee will submit the recommendation, including the basis for that decision, to the clerk of Monthly Meeting.
- 4.) If the standing committee does not forward the application for a grant to the clerk of Monthly Meeting, the clerk of that standing committee will meet with the applicant and explain the reason(s) for this decision.

REPORTING TO MONTHLY MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS: If the application is approved at Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business, the Clerk of submitting standing committee (or their designee) will work with the individual to set a date within three (3) months of approval, for that individual to report to the Meeting for Worship for Business. The applicant will present a verbal report and submit a written report to the clerk of the Meeting for Worship for Business. This report shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

- 1.) How their grant was used.
- 2.) Who benefited from their grant?
- 3.) How others might contribute to this project, etc.

Treasure Hunt

We had an amateur treasure hunter who poked around the grounds with a metal detector earlier this month...nothing special but you might find his commentary and picture interesting:

Well we were able to get to the meeting house Saturday and it was a nice day! We also met Drew during the afternoon and was talking to him a bit. Very nice place and grounds. We didn't find too much of anything good. One guy did stop and asked if we found anything and told us he had detected there before so he was curious if we found anything. He said he found a few old coins from the 1800s. So attached is a picture of what we found. All kinds of things. Modern coins, some miscellaneous items, a few unidentified relics, and some trash but surprisingly not too much. I also found a bracelet which obviously has been there for a long time. It was about 6 inches down and tangled in the roots of a tree. If you would like any of this you are more than welcome since you let us detect there. We greatly appreciate it!! Just to let you know we also provide a free recovery service for people that have lost an item and know approximately where they lost it. No strings attached, we just do it as a courtesy and to help out. Anyway thank you again and have a Merry Christmas. God Bless!

Terry & Cindie Houseworth

