

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

NEWSLETTER

March 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.

Committee meetings via Zoom are held the first First Day of the month.

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.

Black Live Matter protests in Newown

The Peace and Social Action committee reports that the Newtown vigils for Black Lives Matter continue through the winter, but the time has been changed to: Every other Saturday from 11 am to 12 noon. They meet at the corner of State Street and Washington Avenue, in Newtown.

Query 3. Deepening Our Faith: Spiritual Nurture

How does the meeting encourage the use of spiritual practices that deepen our faith, enhance the excitement of shared religious discovery and increase the possibility of spiritual transformation?

What is the nature of our shared experience of the Divine and how do we nurture our collective spiritual growth and transformation?

In what ways do we support each other in our spiritual journeys, in our search for God's will and in our efforts to increase understanding of humanity's relationship to life on earth?

How do we recognize, develop and nurture the spiritual gifts of all in our meeting?

How do I incorporate into my personal and family life those daily practices that focus on continued spiritual growth, including worship, reflection and engagement with writings that nurture the soul?

How does my spiritual life integrate an understanding of a well-ordered relationship with the earth and deepen my reverence for the interconnectedness of all life?

Love

On Valentine's Day I listened to On Being. Krista Tippett interviewed Alain De Botton speaking of love. It wasn't the beautiful, flowery conversation you might expect on the day of romance. He said marriages were almost destined to fail because of all our human frailty. I consider myself lucky. Ed's wonderful and our marriage is special. The fact that we were not young by the time we got together might be helpful.

The conversation got me thinking about another strong relationship in my life - Our Meeting. When many of us come to Meeting we fall in love. The people are wonderful. The fire is warm and comforting. We feel welcome and know we matter. Many of us think we are with a group of like-minded people. We believe in simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship. At least for the most part. We believe in the Light in everyone. It feels comfortable and like home.

Over the years I hear many of us talk of how lucky we all are to have each other and our Meeting. I say it all the time. Our meeting adds richness to my life.

We might come to worship every Sunday. We get involved in the Meeting to different degrees. We are encouraged to a join a committee. Maybe we become clerk of a committee. Or of Meeting. Many of us become immersed in the work of the meeting in many ways. Or maybe our lives are full and busy. We only come to worship and enjoy the peacefulness. It's a respite from our busy and stressful life. Many of us have experienced meeting in all these ways in different times of our life.

The Meeting is like home and like family. Like any relationship there is bound to be some conflict. We've had talks and programs about that recently. That's where the conversation with Alain De Botton comes in. He talks of the ways people can grow together and get along. Some of it may be things to remember in our commitment to our community.

He talks of how important humility is. It's helpful to realize our own imperfections and admit them. He reminds us that we don't automatically understand everything others are thinking. We need to communicate. The deeds and thoughts of others should be looked at with open mind and kindness. Realize that there might be some things we aren't happy about that someone does or thinks. Learn to accept that it's bound to happen in any relationship. Work to understand and learn from the ways of each other. Being human in relationship with other humans can sometimes be a challenge.

Quakers are simple caring people. We've landed in a good place. Yet as we get to know each other we are reminded we all are human. Each of us were raised differently and have different things that set us off and different things we are sensitive about, different things that bring us joy. Each of us have different strengths and different weaknesses.

It takes appreciating everyone for who they are and not looking for perfection. Quakers appreciate the light in everyone. We need to remember with the light comes a complete human being. Working through our life with each other and the community will perhaps teach each of us all to be the best we can be.

Inspiration for the month

"We think a man is educated not when he is replete with knowledge of many things, but when he has the full use of all his potential possibilities and knows how to put these powers into effective and altruistic action.

Jane Rushmore, American Quaker

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