



# Western Quarterly News

of the Religious Society Of Friends

Western Quarterly Meeting Newsletter January 2015

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Dear Western Quarter Friends:

January is often a time for resolutions and looking ahead, and as a Quarter we have many things to look forward to, and a few things to resolve:

- In October we hired Sarah Kastriner as our new Coordinator (part-time) to facilitate engagement between and among Friends and Monthly Meetings, support our volunteers, disseminate information, and ensure we fulfill our Quarterly Meeting responsibilities. We look forward to her first year with us.

- New families are participating in Quarter gatherings! It is a joy to see so many children come together in Friendship, and we look forward to more FDS Convergences and QM youth programs. If you are led to support this work, we are still looking to hire a part-time Youth Activities Coordinator. ([Details here.](#))

- The restructuring of the quarter is still underway. The WQ Support Committee is in operation and is attracting a wonderful variety of supportive Friends who work together in a thoughtful, spirit-led and cooperative way. **Everyone is welcome.**

- We seek individuals who may be called to provide leadership to the Support Committee and the Quarter. We are in need of volunteers to serve as Clerk, Assistant (or co-) Clerk, and Treasurer. If you know of a Friend who may be willing to spend a few hours a month bringing unity to our Monthly Meetings, please contact me or Shelley Hastings of Newark Monthly Meeting (email: [zeppychubby@hotmail.com](mailto:zeppychubby@hotmail.com)). We are looking forward to fresh energy and new ideas.

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Quarterly Meeting  
January 17th (Saturday!), 2015

## Nurturing the Seeds of Peace In a Culture of Violence

At Kennett Friends Meeting House  
125 W. Sickle Street

9 am sign-in; [Program details online](#)



Bruce Birchard and Christina Repoley will share their experiences of faith, service, and transformation in the cause of peace and love in their work and with Quaker Voluntary Service. Friends will also be invited to share some of their experiences of the integration of the inward and the outward journeys, of sowing seeds of peace and compassion in a culture of violence.

**Bonus: PYM's new General Secretary, Christie Duncan-Tessmer will be joining us.  
Come and say hello over lunch!**

COVER  
GET COVER

Continued from pg. 1

•Our own financial needs as a Quarter along with PYM's stated desire for more financial transparency with each Monthly Meeting is an opening to reevaluate our joint process for contributing to PYM and discern if the Unified Budgeting Process is still appropriate for us as a Quarter. We look forward to continuing this discussion with Christie Duncan-Tessmer on Saturday at our Quarterly Business Meeting after lunch. Read the [letters sent in September](#) and [December](#) for more information. Thank you to those Meetings who have indicated an increase in financial support of the Quarter going forward. We appreciate your continued investment in our community of Meetings.

We have many things to look forward to, and a few things to resolve.

In the coming months, I look forward to more opportunities to strengthen our relationship to one another. I also hope that we will continue to make new f/Friends! Join me and others as we gather together in worship and in fellowship. We are made whole through knowing one another.

In Peace,

Pam Leland, Western Quarter Clerk,  
London Grove Monthly Meeting member

## We are PYM!

*Reflections by Sheila Magendantz (Kennett MM)*

On Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, I was among 3 members of KMM who attended the PYM Tour / Baked Potato Dinner at Centre Meeting in Delaware to meet our new General Secretary, Christie Duncan-Tessmer. The room was filled to capacity, and I thought for a moment that I might have to sit on the front porch with my dinner plate!

After a brief moment of worship, Christie began with updating Friends on the current state of PYM. She spoke first of her gratitude to be in her new position and among people who are led by spirit. She gave a brief history of her involvement in various roles at PYM (she is a convinced Quaker of some 26 or 27 years; her daughter is a sophomore at George School), then told us that PYM is currently financially solvent. This comes after a 3 or 4-year campaign to rebuild the financial stability of various accounts. There is a 3 to 4 month reserve in the checking account for regular, ongoing expenses. And there is \$7 - \$800,000 dollars in another fund for long-term growth and income. (I forget the exact amount.) There are plans to appeal for donations in order to build that fund up to \$1.3 million dollars.

Christie also spoke of some changes being implemented at PYM. We (I say "we" because she emphasized that WE ARE PYM) are working to narrow and deepen our focus and support to affect more meaningful change and positive results. She acknowledged that this also means letting go of some causes, which is a difficult process.

She then illustrated her vision of PYM as she set a table with a colorful tablecloth and said that it represents us, PYM. She laid plates and utensils and napkins and glasses on the table and reminded us that we need to create a table where all feel welcome.

She asked that each of us please visit at least 2 other Meetings over the next year, and encouraged us to upload photos or record comments about our visit at [pym.org/visits](http://pym.org/visits). She feels strongly that while each Meeting is special and unique, we can all benefit from experiencing the differences and ways of other Meetings.

She also asked that we visit [pym.org/stories](http://pym.org/stories) to share joys and concerns about our individual experiences and those of our Meeting. She wants that to be a place to share and collaborate with other Meetings that are part of YM. She reminded us that while some Meetings are small, PYM as a whole is big and strong. (Sort of how the light of one candle when shone with the light of others becomes brighter.)

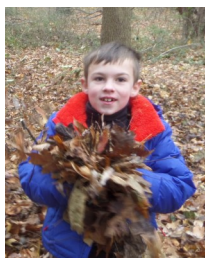
There was a brief Q&A session. Christie shared PYM business cards that had maps to all of our Meetinghouses. She also shared cards that offered new ways to ask our Friends "How are you?" In days long past, apparently Friends would greet each other with the question to the effect of "What is the condition of the Spirit within you today?" The cards read, "How does your Light shine?" and other ways of more effectively expressing, "How are you?" – "Fine, and you?" We should try these greetings at our next gathering of Friends.

## The first 'First Day School Convergence'

by Coleen Kennedy

The first First Day School Convergence for the Western Quarter is now a part of our experience base! Imagine with me, First Day at West Grove Meeting on November 16th where the air is crisp and blessedly dry, in support of the favored outdoor setting for our first convergence gathering. Inside, most every Meeting House bench is warmed with approximately 30 youth and their loving support for a period of worship prior to the youth segment.

Selected folk head out to the bird sanctuary, where two large leaf piles await. 'Happy Helen' Sibol (one of the High-School-Age Friends) puts forth an attentive adaptation of a meet-and-greet exercise as a leading to a lesson on the Beatitudes. A treasure hunt for the first and last portions of the beatitudes on previously hidden tiles ensues only to land us all back in the bird sanctuary, to match each blessing with promised fruit, as given in Matthew's gospel. At long last, attention gives way to the invitation of the leaf piles with shrieks and laughter as if between youth (and adults) long familiar with one another. The spark in the eye of our individual and collective youth is grounding like little else! Thank you to the loving soul of our Quarter for this to be.



## Your Contributions Make Everything Possible

We all give to our Monthly Meetings to support our financial obligations and activities (or at least, we know we should), but did you know that a portion of every donation gets passed on to the Quarter, and the Quarter then passes our combined annual contribution to PYM? This is Western Quarter's *only* source of funding, and each Meeting is heavily reliant on member contributions as well.

PYM is making it easier for Friends to give throughout the year (instead of trying to write one big check!) - with [online giving](http://online.giving). This free service allows you to set up automatic payments (through a bank account or credit card) on a regular schedule (monthly, quarterly, etc.) to your Monthly, Quarterly, and/or Yearly Meetings.

Check it out, at [pym.org](http://pym.org).

## Underground Railroad Workshops for Children

The Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation is pleased to present four Underground Railroad workshops for children at Wilmington Friends Meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays in January and February.

The first workshop on **January 24, 2015**, will feature a story about Wilmington's Underground Railroad Stationmaster Thomas Garrett and a related art project as well as refreshments.

The second workshop on **February 7, 2015**, will feature the story of Harriet Tubman, an art project and a re-enactment of the Underground Railroad, as well as refreshments.

The third and fourth workshops, on **February 14 and 28, 2015**, will feature the story of Frederick Douglass and the early struggles for African-American education. All of the workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, call (302) 299-5600.

## Jubilation on The Called Meeting Regarding Race

By tonya thames taylor

Nineteenth-century abolitionist, egalitarian, and Quaker Lucretia Mott rhetorically asked, "If our principles are right, why should we be cowards?"

The implicit charge of Mott's query always awakens any slumbering courage or hope. Recently, Mott's query seemingly manifested in the form of a spirit that levitated amidst Friends, at the Called Meeting at Arch Street on the afternoon of Saturday, January 10, 2015, when asked to address matters regarding race-based discrimination and hostility. The kinetic energy among over 400 Friends of various ethnicities and ages, from 79 meetings, yearly meetings, and spiritual organizations ignited a spirit of inquiry and investigation that swelled beautifully into an indomitable sense of hope that we, working collectively, had the power to overcome injustice.

The Called Meeting had three worshipful intentions: a corporate gathering, breakout groups based on Quarterly Meetings, and a corporate re-gathering to discuss a proposed Minute of Action. At the onset, the clerks and elders prompted contemplation by asking Friends to examine personal privileges. In the breakout groups, Friends shared their personal privileges and any anti-racism work among their Monthly Meetings and Quarters. In the re-gathering, Friends from several Monthly Meetings in the Western Quarterly joined Friends through the Yearly Meeting to

affirm the following Minute of Action:

"Friends tested and affirmed the work of our clerks and our elders, since being tasked during Annual Sessions in July 2014, to help discern a way forward in addressing many '-isms' including racism, sexism, genderism and classism.

Friends also heartily affirmed that as a Yearly Meeting we:

- Commit to increase our consciousness as Friends about the intersection of privilege and race in our culture and spiritual community. We know our knowledge is often limited by our own experiences and that we have much to learn from each other and from outside resources.
- Commit to move forward with our entire community. The yearly meeting is the community of all our individual Friends and monthly meetings and this work needs to be done with the involvement of all of us.
- Commit to integrate this work into what we do in an ongoing way at the yearly meeting level. We want this work to become part of the fabric of what we do whenever we get together as yearly meeting members and attenders."

Without question, the generosity at Arch Street on Saturday, January 10, 2015, transformed all who attended because the Called Meeting was rooted in love, speaking truth to power, and recognizing the Inner Light in all humanity. For more information, visit [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org)

**On SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2015, from 11 AM to 1 PM, Fallowfield Monthly Meeting invites all to attend an interactive conversation about race, history, and the life and spirit of Lucretia Mott. The program is FREE and "soup" lunch will be provided.**

### Part of a letter from New York Yearly Meeting, December 11, 2014:

"All lives matter. But our civil society is constructed in a way that black and brown lives matter less than white lives. This condition extends beyond the matters of policing into education, the media, the system of mass incarceration, housing patterns, employment, and virtually every aspect of life in the United States, including its faith communities. Therefore, we call for both recognition and remedy of this condition. We call upon civil authorities to take leadership in bringing about this recognition and remedy. We call upon all people of faith, ourselves included, to understand how we may be complicit in a system that extends privileges to people racialized as white while denying the same to those racialized as people of color. . . . This is not easy work. But we pray the burden of this work may be easier to bear than the moral burden of settling back, once the furor subsides, into complacent acceptance of a system and a society that fail to affirm our most fundamental relationship to God and to one another."

Read the full letter here: <http://westernquarterquakers.org/black-lives-matter-a-letter-from-new-york-yearly-meeting/>

## We're All In This Together



Do you carry a concern around the issues of **economic inequality, racism, class, and/or ecological destruction?** An ad hoc planning group is forming around the intersection of these issues and we are seeking representatives from various quarters who would like to work together. We are looking to draw from and incorporate the work of various Friends projects and working groups already involved in one or more of these issues, including:

- on the Yearly Meeting level, the Ecojustice Working Group, Friends Economic Integrity Project, Undoing Racism working group and others.
- on the quarter and monthly meeting level, such work as addressing racial injustice and mass incarceration, prison ministries, smoothing the path for returning citizens, youth anti-violence work, reading/tutoring programs, building sustainable communities, Transition neighborhoods, and more.

Please let me know (267.971.6800 or [hollisterknowlton@gmail.com](mailto:hollisterknowlton@gmail.com)) if you are interested in this exciting work. Hollister Knowlton, Clerk, Philadelphia Quarter

## More Events to Look Forward To.....

### January

January 25 1:00– 3:00 pm, [Stewards of Children](#)

Kennett Friends Meeting will be hosting a 2-hour workshop on child sexual abuse prevention. Stewards of Children is a 2-hour, evidence-informed training program that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Free with registration. Contact Robin Harper: [rdmcharper@yahoo.com](mailto:rdmcharper@yahoo.com)

January 25th 3:00—4:00 pm, **Benefit Concert: The Ladeens,**

West Grove Friends hosts these 2014 International Medalist musicians as they play traditional Irish music on fiddle, whistles & uilleann pipes. Free; donations benefit West Grove Day Care.

### February

February 7th 5:30 –6:30 pm, [Lecture: Gail Dines on Pornography in America](#)

New Garden Township Bldg. This event is sponsored by local Friend Christine Reynolds, as part of her discernment around growing issues and concerns related to the pornography industry in America. Free; discussion and reception to follow.

February 14th 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM [PYM Couples Workshop](#)

“A Valentine’s Day Gift for Each Other” at Friends Center, Philadelphia  
For information or to register, contact Brad Sheeks or Patricia McBee at 215-349-6959

### March

March 14th 6:00 pm [FRIENDship Night: Dinner & a Movie](#)

Hockessin Friends Meeting. The evening starts with dinner at 6 PM, followed by the film *Love Is A Verb* at 7 pm. The film examines "a social movement of Sufi-inspired Sunni Muslims that began in Turkey in the 1960s and now spans the globe. The group is called Hizmet, the Turkish word for "service" or The Gülen Movement after its inspiration and teacher, Fethullah Gülen, a man TIME magazine named as one of the most influential leaders in the world in 2013 for 'preaching a message of tolerance.'" Free. Please RSVP to Anne Cleary by 3/7: [clearyak@verizon.net](mailto:clearyak@verizon.net)

### PYM Thread Gatherings

#### [Worship & Ministry](#)

Saturday, January 24, 2015  
Haddonfield Meeting

#### [Pastoral Care](#)

Saturday, February 28, 2015  
Abington Meeting

#### [\\*New! Children’s Thread](#)

Concurrent with the Pastoral Care Thread

#### [Peace & Social Concerns](#)

Saturday, March 21  
Fallsington Monthly Meeting

#### [Stewardship of Financial Resources](#)

Saturday, April 18, 2015  
Plymouth Friends Meeting

## Quakers and the Ministry of Elder Care

*For those who could not be at Quarterly Meeting in October at Kennett Meeting, Wright Horne offers this summary of his presentation on the Ministry of Elder Care.*

Care and support of aging men and women has long been a concern of Quakers. In the Philadelphia area, starting around 1890, Quaker Boarding Homes sprung up in almost every Quarter. Western Quarterly Meeting formed Friends Home in Kennett in 1898, catering to aging Quakers, younger Friends isolated from their families, and transients. Friends Home was completely owned and operated by the Quarter until about 10 years ago, with a Board made up of representatives from each meeting in the Quarter.

Until that period in US history, elder care was the responsibility of the family. If the family could not be supportive, elders would end up in a poorhouse, or workhouse, or almshouse, were considered “inmates,” and shared space with the insane, the inebriated, the homeless, those with disabilities, mental illness, contagious diseases, incurable illnesses, alongside children and widows. The elderly were simply categorized as part of the community’s most needy recipients.

These days, with Social Security and pensions (those that still have any balance!) there are many more



choices beyond facilities like Friends Home. Over 90% of aging men and women want to “age-in-place” – stay in their homes as long as possible, and receive whatever supportive services they need from local agencies. These include the most critical service, care management, as well as home care (help with ADLs – activities of daily living), meals, transportation, and a referral service for other household needs.

Friend’s Home, while still a viable and venerable bricks-and-mortar facility, is considering ways that we can provide those home services, and thus enlarge our caring community outside our walls. And we also are working on plans to get a larger Quaker presence at our Home! Come sit on our porch and rock!

– Wright Horne, Hockessin Friends Meeting

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### **Summary of Approved Minutes of the Business Meeting Session of Western Quarterly Meeting 19 October 2014 at Kennett Monthly Meeting (for [complete minutes](#) visit our [Business Resources Page](#) online)**

Present: Friends from London Grove, Fallowfield, Kennett, Newark, New Garden, and Centre Meetings. Friend Charlie Spadoni, Coordinator from Concord Quarterly Meeting, was in attendance also.

Meeting began with silent Worship.

#### **14.52- Reporting on the Life in our Meetings.**

**Friends approved including information about Philadelphia Yearly Meeting’s online donation page in the next Western Quarterly newsletter.**

**14.53- Friends approved the minutes of the Western Quarterly’s Support Committee Meeting held on 28 September 2014 at Kennett Monthly Meeting.**

**14.54- Friends received and accepted the Budget Update and Financial Report from Treasurer Ariana Langford of Newark Meeting.** Friends learned that Western Quarterly’s finances are aligned with the financial expectations of the Western Quarter.

Summary of Minutes, Continued

**14.55- Friends approved a Minute of Appreciation to Ruth Thompson** for organizing the July 2014 Tour of Meetings.

**14.46- Friends accepted the Report of Parkersville Trustees Annual Report to Western Quarterly Meeting for 2014.**

**14.47- Support Committee Implementation— Committee Structure.**

A. **Youth Activities Committee-** The Clerk, Pamela Leland shared that the Youth Activities Committee received the report to lay down its committee. Appreciation of service was expressed to the Youth Activities Committee. The committee consisted of: Karen Conlan, Mark Miller, Steve Spengless, Jan Rivera, and Rosemarie Rupert.

B. **Property Summit Update:** Friends secured some property deeds within the Western Quarterly. **Friends approved of the Creation of a Sprit (Ad-Hoc) Property Summit Committee.** The charge of the committee is to gather and share information to the Western Quarterly about the scope of the properties in the Western Quarterly, actual ownership of the property and facilities, the Quarterly’s connections with the properties, and any liabilities associated with each property. The committee is also to ascertain if there are any legal and financial obligations of the Quarterly to the properties and recommended how Western Quarterly should interact with Monthly Meetings about issues regarding the properties and facilities.

C. **Friends are not laying down Property Committees at each Monthly Meetings.** The Western Quarterly Property Summit Committee is one of investigation, not of daily management.

**14.48- Discussion of Intention and Frequency of Quarterly Meeting Publication.** In August 2014, Friends laid down the monthly printing of the newsletters. Printed monthly newsletters will still be sent to those who requested them and to each Monthly Meeting. A PDF of the newsletter will be sent electronically. **Friends approved canceling our bulk mailing subscription in December.**

**14.49- Report & Updates and Future Gathering**

Faith and Play Training: Friday, November 7-Saturday, November 9, 2014 at Centre Meeting.

Inaugural First Day School Convergence on Saturday, November 16, 2014 at 10 AM at West Grove Meeting.

Meeting: December 7 or 14th for next Support Committee at Kennett MM.

**14.50- Personnel Committee Report and Recommendation on WQ Staff Position.**

The Personnel Committee consists of Clerk Pamela Leland, Treasurer Ariana Langford, and Recording Clerk tonya thames taylor. After interviewing the applicant, this is their **recommendation:** Offer Western Quarterly Coordinator Position to Sarah Kastriner. Re-advertise the Youth Activities Coordinator position for someone to work 8-10 hours a week. Quarterly Coordinator would supervise the Youth Activities Coordinator. **Friends approved the Recommendation.**

**14.51- Friends approved releasing our Coordinator to complete a Minute of Appreciation to Kennett Monthly Meeting for hosting Quarterly Meeting on 19 October 2014.**

Respectfully Submitted, tonya thames taylor, Recording Clerk

**I don't use email!**  
**Please continue to send a print copy of the Western Quarterly Newsletter to me:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to: Western Quarter, PO Box 693, Kennett Square, PA 19348,  
 or call our WQ office: 610-444-1012

BRINGING TOGETHER A NEIGHBORHOOD OF FRIENDS

*The Newsletter of **Western Quarterly Meeting**  
Of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)*

P. O. Box 693  
Kennett Square, PA 19348  
WesternQuarterQuakers.org  
Email: coordinator@  
westernquarterquakers.org

Kennett Friends Meeting  
125 W. Sickle  
Street  
610-444-1012



Centre Meeting  
Crosslands Worship  
Group  
Fallowfield Meeting  
Hockessin Meeting  
Kendal Meeting  
Kennett Meeting

London Grove Meeting  
Marlborough Meeting  
Mill Creek Meeting  
New Garden Meeting  
Newark Meeting  
West Grove Meeting

*Find Worship times  
and locations at:  
[westernquarterquakers.org](http://westernquarterquakers.org)  
under the "Our Community" tab*

Western Quarterly Meeting  
PO Box 693  
Kennett Square, PA 19348