

Concord Quarterly News

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 2 April 2013

On the State of the Quarter—Reflections from Concord Quarter's Coordinator

To the members of Concord Quarterly Meeting,

I thought that this month instead of including a Coordinator's Report in the newsletter, I would take this space to reflect on my experience as Coordinator during the past six months. Before I go into that reflection, I first wanted to thank each Monthly Meeting for its hospitality and welcoming spirit. I have enjoyed getting to meet each of your Meetings, and I look forward to continuing to develop meaningful relationships with all of you. From these interactions I have gotten the chance to hear what the concerns are of Monthly Meetings. I would like to bring a few of those concerns forth, to propose some potential projects, and to ask for support in being as much help to the Quarter as I can.

At Quarterly Meeting in October there was a desire expressed to look back into the minutes of the Quarter. I have since visited the archives of Swarthmore and Haverford Colleges to look into these minutes. What I have found is that in the past, Quarterly Meeting was asking questions and holding concerns that are present in life today. I have also learned that Meetings go through cycles, and that no matter the size of a Meeting emphasis is put on having a meaningful worship community for its members. I share this reflection because I have heard concerns about the small size of Meetings and a desire for greater youth presence. While there are Meetings in the Quarter that have a small youth population, there are some wonderful youth in the Quarter as a whole!

(Continued on page 2)

Reflections on Peace—The French and Indian War, War World II, and Present Day

April Quarterly Meeting's program will be an intergenerational event led by author Janet Olshewsky. She will be reading an excerpt from her novel *The Snake Fence*, a story set in Chester County during the French and Indian Wars. We will then discuss concerns such as the peace testimony and what it means to live during a time of conflict. To prepare for this discussion, I thought it would be interesting to look at Concord Quarterly Meeting's minutes from the 1940s and to see

what insights are still applicable today.

In 1940 Concord Quarterly Meeting of Minister and Elders offered a letter to its constituent preparative Meetings about living the peace testimony during a time of war. While the whole of this letter is a powerful witness to peace, it is too long to include here in its entirety. The letter begins with an observation that the world that younger Friends will face is much different from the world that they themselves grew up in.

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State of the Quarter—Reflections from Quarter’s Coordinator, continued from pg 1

As part of my role as Coordinator I have been working with the Youth Committee. In my time as Coordinator we have had two excellent youth events at Quarterly Meeting. At my first Quarterly Meeting in October the Youth Group spent some time working on a film and playing games with students from Westtown School’s Quaker Leadership Program. In January, with Audra Supplee’s volunteer connections, we were able to spend some time at Thorncroft Equestrian Center. At Thorncroft we were able to do service and see and groom horses. At the upcoming Quarterly Meeting at West Chester Meeting in April, we will be having a youth sleepover with the youth group from Western Quarter! I am excited for the potential that this event will have in providing youth in both Quarters with the time to develop friendships.

While working with youth is part of my responsibility as coordinator, the question of youth support is also one that the Quarter is taking up more generally in discussions around the Tuition Endowment Fund. While I cannot speak for the Quarter and the decision that will be made, I would just like to reflect on discussions that I have heard that are in support of the fund, and that the conversations are more about details about how to move forward with the fund rather than if the Quarter should continue having the fund. It is incredibly encouraging to see, that in spite of the financial burden that supporting this fund may place on a Meeting, that there is still a desire to continue.

While the above reflections are mostly about youth concerns, I am aware that there are many other concerns that are present in the Quarter that I don’t yet know of because they have not been brought to my attention. I

want to end this letter by posing some questions.

Would there be interest in having time for fellowship for the members of different committees across the Monthly Meetings? (For instance, would clerks from Religious Education Committees be interested in meeting with other clerks to learn from one another about what is working in youth programming?)

Would clerks of Monthly Meetings be interested in meeting with one another? Would Monthly Meetings be interested in learning from one another about how to have a relevant and beneficial web presence?

Would there be interest in having informal times for fellowship planned in which Meetings could connect?

I would like to end by saying that while I visit Monthly Meetings on Sundays, I do not want that to be the only time that I am interacting with Monthly Meetings. I would like to extend an open invitation to be in touch with me about any projects that your Meeting is undertaking. Give me a call (484-974-1221) and let’s discuss the pertinent concerns for your meetings over coffee. Please get in touch with me about what you would like to have happen in the Quarter. I want to be of the most help and to have this community be the most vibrant as can be, but I can only do so in so far as my time is being well utilized.

Love and Light,

Averyl Hall
Concord Quarterly Meeting Coordinator

Do you have something you would like to share with the Quarter? Share it in the Quarterly Meeting Newsletter!

Concord Quarterly Meeting’s Newsletter is published four times a year: January, April, July and October. Deadlines for submissions the 15th of December, March, June, and September. E-mail submissions to concordquarter@pym.org.

Reflections on Peace—The Peace Testimony in Times of War, continued from pg 1

This letter states:

The economic foundations of our social structure have been so profoundly modified within a decade that the opportunities for individual initiative and independent enterprise are seriously curtailed. The young man ready to start in-life discovers few avenues of employment open to him and more and more finds himself an inconsequential cog in a vast industrial or governmental machine in which his personality is dangerously submerged. This tendency is increasing rather than decreasing.

This letter is very specific to the time, and yet there are a great many parallels and questions that this letter raises to be considered today. For instance, at the end of the letter, questions are asked for Meetings to consider the Peace Testimony and war, and to examine whether or not they have a responsibility to address the injustices of the reality of living in wartime. In minutes from 1942 this concern is still present. Friends in Concord Quarterly Meeting observed that it is a challenge to live without “contributing, at least indirectly, to the war effort.”

In 2013, the concerns raised in this letter

from the 1940s, are still very much present today. It might be useful to consider our responsibility to the Peace testimony during a time of war by considering the following from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting’s Faith and Practice.

How does our Meeting act to advance peace, to oppose violence, and to support the constructive use of authority in our community, our nation, and the world?

What are we doing as a Meeting:

to free our nation from militarization, so evident in our society and in its economy?

to understand the causes of war and violence and to work for the development of the attitudes and institutions of peace?

to recognize and correct the causes of violence within our communities, and to work toward overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?

to increase the understanding and use of nonviolent approaches for the resolution of conflicts?

I hope this reflection is useful preparation for engaging with Janet Olshewsky’s reading from *The Snake Fence*.

April Quarterly Meeting: Living the Peace Testimony in Times of Conflict

April Quarterly Meeting at West Chester Meeting will begin for our Youth Group on Saturday afternoon! We will be bowling in the afternoon, playing games, having a meal with one another, and watching a movie. In the morning the adults will arrive and will have a Meeting for Business to finalize a decision about the Tuition Endowment Fund.

We will then be joined by Janet Olshewsky.

Olshewsky will be reading an excerpt from her book, *The Snake Fence* and facilitating an intergenerational discussion on the Peace Testimony.

While we are in Meeting for Business and the morning program, our youngest members will be making crafts that relate to *The Snake Fence*. It promises to be an exciting event and hope many of you will join us!

Concord Quarterly Meeting

April 28th 2013

at

West Chester Monthly Meeting

8:00am	Sign-in
8:15-9:30 am	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (Child care for all ages) Youth Group Program (see below)
9:30-10:30	Reading and Conversation about <i>The Snake Fence</i>
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-11:45	Meeting for Worship
12 noon	Lunch

Multigenerational Discussion:

Living the Peace Testimony in Times of Conflict

Author Janet Olschewsky will read an excerpt from her novel *The Snake Fence*, set in Chester County during the French and Indian Wars, and then lead a multigenerational ('tweens through adults) discussion about the issues it raises, including living the peace testimony and living up to personal responsibility during a time of conflict.

Youth Programs: Elementary and Middle School

The Youth Program at April Quarterly Meeting will begin on Saturday afternoon with the company of youth from Western Quarter! We will be going bowling, playing games, watching a movie, and spending the night at West Chester Monthly Meeting. In the morning we will wake up early to clean-up, have breakfast, and learn about Quaker business practices. We will then join the adults to hear from Janet Olschewsky's book *The Snake Fence!*

The Quarter's youngest Friends will be making crafts from the time of the French and Indian War, making corn bread for our shared meal, learning about William Penn's Holy Experiment! Encourage your Meeting's First Day School programs to come to West Chester!

Note: *Childcare is available beginning at 8:00 .*

Please pre-register for the Youth Sleepover! If you are interested in being an adult presence, see CQ website at <http://concordquarter.sqsp.com> or email concordquarter@pym.org

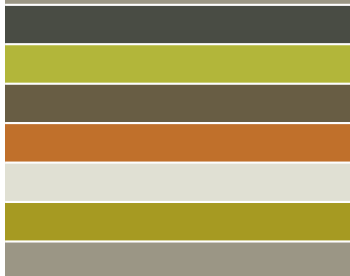
Location: *West Chester Monthly Meeting is located at 425 N. High Street in West Chester, PA.*

Service and Play!

We will meet at West Chester Meeting, do some service, enjoy spring, watch movies, go bowling, and in the morning participate with the older folks in an inter-generational program!

Join Us!

Gathering for Middle School Friends



This is an overnight program. So we'll need participants to register. Contact us at one of the email addresses below to register. If you'd like to serve as a Friendly Adult Presence contact us too!

Concord and
QUARTERLY MEETINGS
Western

westernquarter@verizon.net and concordquarter@pym.org

Concord Quarterly Meeting Calendar of Events

April

28 Concord Quarterly Meeting at West Chester

See flyers for detail.

Friendly Households: Meaningful Matinees

Join Westtown Meeting for a screening of *Genetic Roulette*. Westtown School Theater 1:30 pm

May

3-5 Middle School and Young Friends Gathering at Camp Swatara

Join Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Middle School and High School program for a weekend of fun at Camp Swatara. See <http://www.pym.org/what-we-do/youth-programs/> for more information.

5 Planning Committee Meeting

7:30 pm at The Hickman.

18-19 Spring Family Overnight at Camp Darkwaters

Family overnight is a one night sleepover for families with kids K-5th grade. See <http://www.pym.org/calendar/events/spring-family-overnight> for more information.

19 Friendly Households: Meaningful Matinees

Join Westtown Meeting for a screening of *Forks Over Knives*. Westtown Lower School Gathering Room 1:30 pm.

24-26 Young Adult Friends Spring Retreat: Of Earth, Of Spirit: Quaker Stewardship and Eco-Justice

Join the Young Adult Friends Community (18-35) at Haddonfield Friends Meeting for their Spring Retreat. See <http://www.pym.org/young-adult-friends/> for more information.

June

2 Friendly Households: Meaningful Matinees

Join Westtown Meeting for a screening of *Dirt: The Movie*. Westtown Lower School Gathering Room 1:30 pm.

22 Picnic and Tubing on the Brandywine

Concord Quarterly Meeting and Western Quarter will be spending the afternoon tubing the Brandywine. Look for more information at the end of May.

Concord Quarterly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Held at Goshen Monthly Meeting
January 27th, 2013

Meeting began with a period of silent worship. Rich Ailes welcomed everyone. There were 25 Friends in attendance. Friends from Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown, and Wilmington were present. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Announcements: a SHARE service project lead by Junior Interim Meeting will be held on Saturday February 9th at 2901 West Hunting Park Ave. Philadelphia. Junior Interim Meeting invites all to attend. The service organization SHARE (Self-Help and Resource Exchange) Food Program supplies food cupboards, emergency food packages and low cost food directly to families throughout the tri-state region. Both Rich and Averyl are willing to carpool. They plan to leave from Westtown at 9 am.

There will be a Square Dance at Willistown on February 16th from 7pm to 9pm. Rich asked that a flyer be placed in each meetinghouse.

A Minute of Travel for Thomas Swain was read and is attached to the minutes. * Among his many stops, Thomas is visiting England, Wales, Scotland and Nordic Yearly Meeting. Traveling in the Ministry is a strong calling which he is lead to continue and help Friends with their spiritual gifts. The minute was approved by Middletown Monthly Meeting. Friends endorsed the Minute of Travel and wish him well.

A Minute of Travel for Melinda Wenner Bradley was read and is attached to the minutes. * Melinda is a certified Godly Play trainer and she has helped to develop the Faith and Play stories in the Godly Play format. She is called to continue her leading to teach this method of religious education. The minute was approved by West Chester Monthly Meeting. Friends endorsed of the Minute of Travel and wish her well.

Coordinator's Report was given by Averyl Hall and is attached to the minutes. * Over the past few months she was able to visit all meetings in the Quarter. She has reviewed the Quarter's minutes from the 1920's and 1980's to learn the Quarter's history and its past concerns. She has just returned from Cuba on a religious visa with Friends United Meeting and Guilford College. Friends accepted the report.

Treasurer's Report was given by Bruce James. He distributed handouts on the year-to-date finances of the Quarter. The Quarter uses the National Bank of Malvern which is a local community Quaker bank. The treasurer encouraged monthly meetings consider also doing their banking with a local bank. Beth Lawn's final invoice for the transition to Averyl has been paid. The budget for payroll has five months worth of funds available. Bruce thanked monthly meetings for their timely covenant payments. The Quarter is within one percent of the budget. Friends accepted the report.

Goshen and Wilmington's Joy's and Challenges were reported and are attached to the minutes. * Friends minuted their appreciation to Goshen Meeting for their organizing and hospitality to the Quarter today.

A report on the Quarter website was given by Rich Ailes. Rich summarized a letter from Martin Reber, Director of Communications for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, notifying Quarters that the Yearly Meeting is no longer supporting Quarterly Meeting websites. They are requesting that the Quarter website be moved to a new location within approximately four months. Friends approved allowing the planning committee make the decision on how to proceed with moving the website. The anticipated monthly charge for this service will be approximately \$20. Bruce James and Rich Ailes volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to help implement the move under the direction of the planning committee.

A Threshing on the Tuition Endowment Fund was led by Rich. A representative from each meeting gave a response. There was a sense of continued strong interest in the TOF and TEF. Friends approved a called meeting to continue threshing the Quarter's Tuition Aid program. The planning committee is empowered to set a date and location for the called meeting. The details assembled on the Quarter's Tuition Aid will be gathered and dispersed to the Monthly Meetings prior to the called meeting.

Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
John Lavin
Recording Clerk

Rich Ailes
Clerk

* For all attached reports please see Concord Quarterly Meeting's website. <http://concordquarter.sqsp.com>

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