

# Abington Quarter Newsletter

Religious Society of Friends

*Holiday Happenings 2018*



## Greetings Friends,

*We are pleased to share with you this special holiday edition of AQNews, highlighting the dates and times of the Monthly Meetings Christmas events, a little look ahead to the New Year, and a special piece written by Friend Dan Turner of Abington Monthly Meeting. A reminder to share your photos and events with the Quarter by sending them to [aqnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:aqnewsletter@gmail.com) Thank you, Friends and Happy Holidays!*

*Margaret Anderson, Editor*

*An essay by Dan Turner of Abington Friends Meeting  
11/28/18*

A new theory that's not so new.

If most of us forget what a wheel looks like and then someone reinvents it, the "new" idea may seem absolutely revolutionary. This seems to be happening right now with what some scientists are describing as "the organizing principle of all life". It's a revolutionary new theory that says that all living entities, from single cells to human beings, are driven by the same imperative, which is to reduce the difference between our expectations and what sensory inputs tell us is actually happening. This theory, known as Active Inference, is being touted as the most important organizing principle for the biosphere since Darwin's theory of evolution.

It seemed familiar when I read about it, and after some thought I dug this out: "When you make the two into one, and when you make the inner like the outer and the outer like the inner, and the upper like the lower, and when you make male and female into a single one, so that the male will not be male nor the female be female, when you make eyes in place of an eye, a hand in place of a hand, a foot in place of a foot, an image in place of an image, then you will enter (the kingdom)"

That's a quotation from Jesus in the Gospel of Thomas -- suppressed as heretical, lost for 1800 years, and finally a copy was discovered in ancient storage jar, which was dug up by a farmer in Egypt in 1945. Seems clear enough that Jesus is telling us to align our perspectives so there is verisimilitude between our subjective mental images of our own bodies & our mental models of the world, on the one hand, and the objective reality of what we are & what God has created all around us, on the other. So did Jesus have Active Inference in mind? And how about the scientists....were they studying non-canonical early Christian texts? Probably not! Seems like another case of rediscovering the wheel.

## AQ Monthly Meetings Holiday Activities

**Abington** - Monday December 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Caroling**—John Barnes Room followed by **Candlelight Meeting for Worship**—Meetinghouse

**Foulkeways** - Thursdays 4pm - Meeting for Worship - Dyer Room

**Gwynedd**- Christmas Tea is on Sunday, December 16 at 5:00 PM; everyone is invited.

**Horsham**- [horshammeeting.org](http://horshammeeting.org)

**Plymouth** - Friday night 12/14/18 The Cornerstone Café Coffeehouse, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room in back of the Meetinghouse. Come for warm fellowship and good folk music.

Sunday afternoon 12/30/18 The Music Circle, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room in the back of the Meetinghouse. This event is a gathering of musicians (guitar, banjo, fiddle, harmonica, dulcimer, spoons, or anything else ) who play together and solo, if they wish, while others join in singing with them. These events are fun for the whole family and those who don't play enjoy the singing just as much as the musicians. All are welcome. If you need a music stand, please bring one.

Monday night 12/24/18 Christmas Eve Caroling, worship, and candle light vigil for peace at the wall of the Meeting House. Cookies and Wassail to follow. All are welcome to come and share the warmth of the season.

Every 4<sup>th</sup>. Sunday of each month, we have Friendly 4<sup>th</sup>. potluck lunch after worship. If anyone wishes to worship with us sometime, please plan to come then and stay for lunch.

Mid-Week Worship every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to come and join us in quiet peace in the middle of the week.

**Richland** - [richlandquakers.org](http://richlandquakers.org) Peace and Light will be Dec 16, 2018. Pot luck at 5:30 with caroling, followed by a candlelight meeting for worship in the Meetinghouse. All welcome to come for this very special Friends gathering.

**Unami** - Unami Friends Meeting invites you to a Community Open House and Thank You Lunch for our Newly Renovated Meeting House Sunday, December 2, 2018, 12:30 pm, at the "rise" of Meeting for

Worship. You are also welcome to join us at 11:00 am for Meeting for Worship. Unami Friends Meeting House 100 East Fifth Street, Pennsburg, PA mary.hanisch@gmail.com 215-529-4317

## Upper Dublin - <https://www.facebook.com/UpperDublinFriendsMeeting/> 12th Month

-12 **“Unplug & Recharge”** Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month for Meeting for Worship at 6:30 PM followed by a light meal of warm soups, fresh breads and great conversation. All are welcome!

- 23 **Christmas Party** after Meeting for Worship.

- 24 **Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship** at 7:30 PM

## Other News:

**Byberry-** Byberry Meeting is looking forward to having running water to the meetinghouse in 2019 for the first time. We are working with an architect to have kitchen, bathrooms and ramp access as early as next year. A five year plan is considered for our future growth. -- Dave Nepley, clerk

## Neighboring Monthly Meeting News:

### United Friends School , Quakertown UNITED FRIENDS SCHOOL

#### COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Hello friends -

The Committee on Community and Social Justice invites you to our fall event on **Tuesday, December 4th at 6 PM, Intersectionality 101**. Childcare will be available.

Intersectionality is the theme of our diversity work this year and will be the focus of the UFS 2019 Ally week in February. We hope this event will serve to educate and inform us in a way that will allow greater dialogue with our children. Liz Bradbury, of the Bradbury-Sullivan Center, and Colleen Clemens, Kutztown University professor, will present and lead activities that will explore what Intersectionality is, how it impacts our lives and our society, and how to talk with children about these complicated topics.

We hope to see you on **December 4th** so you can learn more about this subject to enrich our year-long discussion as a community of this topic.

All the best,

The Community and Social Justice Committee

**Liz Bradbury** has been a full-time advocate for the LGBT community since 1994 and an organizer since 1979. In 2004, she co-founded PA Diversity Network, where she served as Executive Director for ten years. She helped lead successful efforts to pass model LGBT-inclusive non-discrimination and domestic partner legislation in nine PA municipalities. She served for 15 years on the Human Relations Commission of the City of Allentown (including three years as Chair) where she wrote the guidelines for discrimination investigations and trained investigators.

**Colleen Lutz Clemens**, M. Ed., Ph.D. is associate professor of Non-Western Literature and Director of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Kutztown University, PA. She has written about social justice issues for a variety of publications including *Teaching Tolerance*.

Lehigh Valley MM -

***Join us for the 59th Annual  
Nazareth to Bethlehem Peace Pilgrimage on  
Saturday Dec. 8th!  
10:45AM***

***Participation is free, but Reservations are requested to assist with planning for transportation from meeting location to Peace Walk departure point. Simple Supper and Message from Guest Speaker at Walk's Conclusion -- Guest Speaker: Jonhdi Harrell (PYM Member)***

Walk the Road of Peace For over 55 years people dedicated to peace have been gathering in Pennsylvania to walk the 10 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem on the second Saturday of December. The Peace Pilgrimage, symbolic of the journey of Mary and Joseph, provides all of us, those who walk, those who pass us on the highway, and those who read about the walk, with an opportunity to consider the true meaning of Christmas. The sight of 200 pilgrims walking with stars and peace signs inspires us to focus on the need for Peace on Earth. Consider walking with your family and/or friends. If you are concerned about your ability to complete the full 10 miles, frequent rest stops and relief transportation are available.

More Than a Walk --

Even if you are not able to join the pilgrims, please consider participating in our related events:

- Christmas Carol singing at the Central Moravian Church steps.
- Simple supper and message from our guest speaker at Christ Church at Market and Center Streets.

For more information, please go to [Peace Walk](#)

## Of Thee and Thine

Please send announcements of births and passages to [aqnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:aqnewsletter@gmail.com) for inclusion in the upcoming Newsletter.

**Last AQ Newsletter Link: [Autumn 2018](#)** Or contact Margaret Anderson for a copy, 215.669.4577

## AQ Business Calendar 2019

### 2019

Feb 3, 2019	.....Gwynedd.....	Quarterly Meeting
March 3, 2019	.....Byberry.....	Representative Meeting
May 5, 2019	.....Norristown.....	Quarterly Meeting
June 2, 2019	.....Unami.....	Representative Meeting
Aug 4, 2019	.....TBD (Abington).....	Quarterly Meeting & Picnic
Aug 25, 2019	.....Richland .....	Representative Meeting
Oct 6, 2019	.....Upper Dublin.....	Quarterly Meeting
Nov 3, 2019	.....Foulkeways.....	Representative Meeting

### 2020

Feb 2, 2020	..... Plymouth.....	Quarterly Meeting
March 1, 2020	..... Byberry.....	Representative Meeting
May 3, 2020	..... Horsham.....	Quarterly Meeting
June 7, 2020	..... Unami.....	Representative Meeting
Aug 2, 2020	..... Abington.....	Quarterly Meeting & Picnic
Aug 23, 2020	.....Richland.....	Representative Meeting
Oct 4, 2020	.....Gwynedd.....	Quarterly Meeting
Nov 1, 2020	.....Foulkeways.....	Representative Meeting

### **Monthly Meetings for Business Days and Times**

Abington: 2nd First Day check calendar

Unami: 2nd First Day, 9 a.m.

Richland: 2nd First day, 12 noon

Plymouth: 3rd First Day, 9 a.m.

Gwynedd: 3rd First day, 10:45 a.m.

Byberry: Last First day, 10 a.m. unless otherwise arranged

Horsham: Last First day, 11 a.m. unless otherwise arranged; Soup Sunday follows

Upper Dublin: M4B is 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun at 9.

To all the contributors to this newsletter, please know that your time and interest is very much appreciated. If anyone would like to submit photos, articles, essays or the like to this Newsletter, please send to [aqnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:aqnewsletter@gmail.com) and if possible, we will include your submission as received. Thank you!

*Margaret Anderson, Editor*