



Spring/Summer 2018

Friends,

These past months, there has been an on-line conversation about “Quakerism- Will It Survive?” Friends have posted thoughts on nurture groups, one-to-one dialogues, single events and broad programs, all for growing our community. Some are remembering well-intended, though less-than-fortunate encounters that created blockages. Others voiced uncertainty about the direction of our intention; words we use or forms we apply may be standing in our own way. Within the number of responses here, a theme presents itself - that we engage ourselves again and again, responding to what we experience in ways that reveal our paying attention to the Divine in our daily life together. Might we say this conversation is a mirror of our core value - continuing revelation. Whether or not a particular activity “worked” in finite terms may become less the point than the process of embracing the work itself and embracing it compassionately. Some of us practice the spiritual discipline of ‘examen’, a daily exercise characteristically driven by query such as “What today was loving? What was not loving?” Perhaps when we stay with a long and sensate view of divine care, our instances of present-moment awareness, our succession of steps in witness to human need, will to carry us to ever-renewing grounds. In worship, might we rephrase the question from “Will it survive?” to “How will we evolve?” As I review our Quarter’s engagements over the past several years, I come to recognize faithfulness among us Friends. Resources are challenged. Motions are daunting. Perspectives become constrained. Cups have appeared half empty and yet they show themselves to be full. What an enticing mystery. The endless gift of continual revelation that we are given is not ours to hold in place. We have a gift only if we share it in holy accompaniment. Isn’t it true that seekers look to know that they are not alone and that all

will be well? Our gift as Quakers doesn't disappear when we share it, when we keep offering the cup that many may drink. May we stay practiced and prepared. May such nourishment continue to be passed forward in trust that it will be absorbed.

-Amelia Diamond, Clerk AQ

During a past AQ meeting for business, Lynn Biddle & Phil Donnelly shared their leading for opening conversation in diversely demanding situations. Attached is one piece that they have been kind enough to share:

Grounding Vision

1. Generous Listening – Listening is more than being quiet while others have their say. Real listening is powered by curiosity. It involves vulnerability – a willingness to be surprised, to let go of assumptions and take in ambiguity. The generous listener wants to understand the humanity behind the words of the other...
2. Humility – Humility is a companion to curiosity, surprise and delight. It is not about debasing oneself, but about approaching everything and everyone with a readiness to be surprised and delighted. It is to be planted in what you know, while living expectantly for discoveries yet to come.
3. Patience – Patience ... can be the fruit of a full-on reckoning with reality – a commitment to move through the world as it is not as we wish it to be. A spiritual view of time is a long view of time – seasonal and cyclical, resistant to the illusion of time as a bully, time as a matter of deadlines.
4. Hospitality – Hospitality is the bridge to all the great virtues. You don't have to love or forgive or feel compassion to extend hospitality. It is more than an invitation. It is the creation of a safe, inviting, trustworthy space...It creates the intention, the spirit and the boundaries for what is possible. When in doubt practice hospitality.
5. Adventurous Civility – The adventure of civility ... cannot be a mere matter of politeness or niceness. Adventurous civility honors the difficulty of what we face and the complexity of what it means to be human. It doesn't celebrate diversity by...ignoring its messiness and its depths. The questions that perplex and divide us will not be resolved quickly. Civility is about creating new possibilities for living forward while being different and even continuing to hold profound disagreement.
6. Words that Matter – The words we use shape how we understand ourselves, how we interpret the world, how we treat each other.

Around the Quarter please send news from your Meeting to aqnewsletter@gmail.com

Reports:

[Minutes of AQ Meeting for Business 5-4-18](#) Click on the link to open minutes

Of Thee and Thine Please send announcements of births and passages to aqnewsletter@gmail.com for inclusion in the upcoming Newsletter.

AQ Business Calendar 2018

- Aug 5, 2018 Abington..... Quarterly Meeting & Picnic
- Aug 26, 2018 Upper Dublin..... Representative Meeting
- Oct 7, 2018 Horsham..... Quarterly Meeting
- Nov 4, 2018 Foulkeways Representative Meeting

AQ Events *Weekly Happenings*

When	Where	What
Mondays		
Tuesdays	Gwynedd MM	Meditation Group 7:30-8:30 p.m. Sharing 8:30-9 p.m. Guidance for interested beginners offered. Contact: Beth Roberts luobaifeng3@yahoo.com for questions.
Wednesdays	Plymouth MM	Mid-week worship 7:00 p.m. Contact: Dave Miller d.j.miller@verizon.net
	Richland MM	"Light Group" 7:00 p.m. Explore a type of meditation used by early Quakers to "find the Truth in the Light", centering. Contact: Susan Abbott, naisma@aol.com , 610-346-1937 OR Jack Schick, sjckschc@aol.com .
	Upper Dublin	Unplug and Recharge, 2nd Wednesday. 6:30 p.m.
	Gwynedd MM	Yoga 6pm

Saturdays	Gwynedd MM	First Saturdays 9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. AFSC Sale. Community room
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Scroll down for Picnic Flyer and Annual Sessions Notice.....

welcoming all Friends to the annual

ABINGTON QUARTER

PICNIC

8.5.18



Horsham Meeting

Easton (Rte 611) & Meetinghouse Rds. Horsham PA 19044

9:00 AM Hospitality | 9:45 -10:15 AM Meeting for Business
(child care provided) | 10:30-11:15 AM Meeting for
Worship with Horsham Friends | 11:30 AM Picnic

Please bring a dish to share!

CHILDREN'S GAMES, CRAFTS, NATURE WALK
POTLUCK and GRILLS, BURGERS AND DOGS PROVIDED
RAIN or SHINE| NO POOL

Events



Annual Sessions 2018

WHEN:

July 25, 2018 – July 29, 2018

WHERE:

The College of New Jersey 2000 Pennington Rd Ewing Township, NJ 08628

CONTACT:

Eric Berdis, Interim Sessions Coordinator

215 241-7041

[Event website](#)

The Sessions Coordinating Committee is making plans for Annual Sessions 2018 at The College of New Jersey. Friends of every age from our local meetings gather together, guided by Spirit for worship, fellowship, to conduct our shared business, learn from one another and organize our work and witness,

and have fun. Please save the dates, and we'll be announcing more details as plans are discerned. Registration opens in May.

- For all ages!
- Worship grounding all we do.
- Fellowship in a peaceful setting, time for friendships to flourish.
- Fun all over, ReCreation tents, downtime to play and connect.
- Learning & Active Work
- Spirit-led discernment in Meetings for Business.
- Keynote Speaker
- Affordable-Financial Aid available for all ages.

Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups of Abington Quarterly Meeting

Abington MM: 520 Meetinghouse Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046

<http://www.abingtonmeeting.org>

Byberry MM: 3001 Byberry/Southampton Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154

Gwynedd MM: 1101 DeKalb Pike, Gwynedd, PA 19454

www.gwyneddmeeting.org

Foulkeways WG: Foulkeways at Gwynedd 1120 Meetinghouse Road,
Gwynedd PA

Pottstown WG: Bethel Community Church, 575 Keim St, Pottstown PA
19464

Horsham MM: 611 and Meetinghouse Road, Horsham PA 19044

Norristown MM: 20 E Jacoby Street (at Swede Street), Norristown PA 19401

Upper Providence Meetinghouse: 807 Black Rock Rd Oaks PA 19426

Plymouth MM: E Germantown and Butler Pikes, Plymouth Meeting PA
19462

Richland MM: S. Main St. & Mill Road (just off Rt. 309) Quakertown, PA 18951
www.richlandquakers.org

Upper Dublin MM: 1506 Fort Washington Avenue, Maple Glen PA 19002

Unami MM: 100 E Fifth Street, Pennsburg PA 18073

Monthly Meetings for Business Days and Times

Abington: First day may vary; generally 9 a.m. on 1st 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

QQ

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 and if possible, we will include your submission as received. Thank you!

Margaret Anderson, Editor