

**Quarterly Meeting is Saturday, April 19:**

**Youth and Families: Service Project at Tick Tock Learning Center**

We'll be painting, mulching, gardening, and having a fun time together on 4/19. We'll move inside if the weather insists. See pages 2 and 5.

**Financial Stewardship Committee Visit to Western Quarterly Meeting 4/19 – All Questions Answered Adult Program on April 19:** During 2007, members of Financial Stewardship Committee made what was probably an unprecedented number of visits to monthly meetings and quarterly meetings. Most of this was in response to those meetings' requests for more information about Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's financial situation. It was a real joy to the members of the committee who made the visits since in every case all in attendance felt that some "sense of the meeting" was reached.

We wish to continue that practice. .. On April 19 we are looking toward meeting with Friends from Western Quarter, when they gather at New Garden meeting. We have no pre-arranged agenda, other than to meet with Friends. Please bring your questions; they will steer our conversation that day. – For example,

WHY a covenant?

WHAT is the Annual Fund?

WHERE does all that money go?

WHERE does it come from?

WHEN does all of this get done?

WHO gets to decide?

WHATEVER else the Friends of Western Quarter want to know –

There should be no unanswered questions. – from Friends Jack Mahon, Kathy Reilly, TylaAnn Burger

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**The Faces of Islam ~ at West Grove Meeting**

The Faces of Islam is an on-going forum to explore the nature of Islam. Next is a series of Films, Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. Schedule on page 3.

**Quakers in Action You're invited:** Friends School Day of the Earth, April 25-26; Environmental Leadership Summer Workcamp June 13-15; Mexico Summer Workcamp June 23-30 by Westtown School. See p. 4.

**Registrations for FGC Gathering** Registrations are **3/27-4/6 and 4/12 until filled.** Register early for your top choices of workshops. The Gathering is wonderful !! First-timers, find out about the joys of the Gathering; it's June 28 – July 5. -Ask Friends in your Meeting. Contact Friends General Conference (FGC) at 215-561-1700 and gathering@fgcquaker.org. Also see [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org); & questions to W. Qtr. staff Gail Newbold

**Tubing on the Brandywine River!** Grab your suit, shorts & a friend. All come along for the joys of picnicking and relaxing with Friends. Sunday, **July 13, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.** at Mary's. ~ Mark calendars.~

Second Query: Meeting for Business

- Is our meeting for business held in the spirit of a meeting for worship in which we seek divine guidance?
- Are we careful to keep in the spirit of worship each of the concerns that emerge, whether of nurture, of Spirit, of social concerns, of property, or of finance?
- Are Meeting decisions directed by prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and are difficult problems considered carefully with patient search for truth, unhurried by the pressures of time?
- How do we respond if we notice the meeting has lost an understanding of the presence of God?
- Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?
- *Do I regularly attend meeting for business and in a spirit of love and unity? If unable to attend, how do I attend to my responsibility?*
- *Do I consider prayerfully the many concerns that are lifted up on any issue, acknowledging that the search for truth in unity involves what God requires, being open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?*

PEACE: Create peace within yourself by affirming, "I send love to those who challenge me, for they are my teachers."

Hearts Wildly Open (poem & body prayer)

Breathe

Breathe love  
into the cup  
of your hands  
and place your flaming  
palms against your heart  
Let this warmth  
melt your fears  
like wax before a fire  
and watch the delicious  
softening reveal  
the wildflower  
of your heart..

We must live  
with Hearts Wide Open.  
Hearts Wildly Open.

- Kali Heydel

## Western Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Western Quarterly (WQ) Meeting is formed by the following Monthly Meetings: Centre (DE), Fallowfield (PA), Hockessin (DE), Kendal (PA), Kennett (PA), London Grove (PA), Marlborough (PA), Mill Creek (DE), New Garden (PA), Newark (DE), and West Grove (PA), and Crosslands Worship Group.

WQM is a member of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and thus affiliated with Friends General Conference.

### Western Quarterly Meeting Officers

#### *Clerk*

Alice Gilbert  
London Grove MM

#### *Recording Clerk*

Janice Rivera  
Hockessin MM

#### *Assistant Clerk*

Chip Thomas  
Marlborough MM

#### *Treasurer*

Kathy Hahn  
Kennett MM

*Alternate Treasurer*  
(open)

### WQM Staff

*Facilitator:* Gail Newbold

*To contact our Webmaster:*  
Gail.pietrzyk@verizon.net

### WQM Websites

[www.localquakers.org](http://www.localquakers.org)  
[www.pym.org/western-qm](http://www.pym.org/western-qm)

To give information for the Newsletter, or to get information about activities reported here, calls may be directed to the Western Quarterly Meeting Office, 610-444-1012.

## Agenda for Spring Western Quarterly Meeting Hosted by New Garden Monthly Meeting Saturday, April 19, 2008

**Program: "All Questions Answered:"** *Financial Stewardship Committee of Phila. Yearly Meeting visits – Jack Mahon, TylaAnn Burger and Kathy Reilly*  
**Youth : Service Project, with Spirit** – *To Tick Tock Early Learning Center, painting and gardening outdoors. Projects inside if it's raining. All ages (parents, uncles, adults are invited) to roll up sleeves and enjoy. See page 5.*  
**Ages 3-5:** *There is space for you at Tick Tock, also. Please RSVP.*  
**Very youngest:** *Please phone ahead to request Friendly childcare at New Garden Meeting. Sign-ups or questions: 610-869-3455 or 610-444-1012.*

9:00 – Friends gather and greet one another, coffee & tea

9:00 – Youth registration. Carpool will go to Tick Tock. See details page 5.

9:15 – Meeting for Worship

10:15 to 11:15 – *Our Yearly Meeting, Money & Your Questions:* Financial Stewardship Committee, with Jack Mahon, TylanAnn Burger and Kathy Reilly. (See page 1.)

~brief break ~

11:30 – Meeting for Worship for Business

- Center in silence

Approval of January WQ Meeting Minutes; review of Agenda

Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

Trustees of Friends Home in Kennett Square

Inactive Meetinghouses of Historic Interest

Western Quarter, Inc. – Penns Grove Property

Finance and Budget

Nominating and Organization

Sound System(s) at Quarterly Meeting sessions

New business, announcements- bring a flyer for your announcement

- Closing worship

1:00 – Lunch, hosted by New Garden Friends

### **Our Friends from Financial Stewardship Committee**

**TylaAnn Burger**, a member of Green Street Monthly Meeting, currently serves as Treasurer of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM). She has served as treasurer of Friends General Conference and the Friends Journal board and as clerk of FGC, FLGC, various boards and committees. She has presented workshops on Quaker finance and on clerking. Her regular occupation is Executive Director of Friends Hospice.

...**Jack Mahon**, a member of Woodstown Monthly Meeting, joined Financial Stewardship as representative from the Education Standing Committee & has clerked FSC since 2005. He has clerked his Quarterly Meeting's committee for staff oversight, and Testimonies and Concerns Committee. He is a past Monthly Meeting clerk, current MM treasurer, has taught Quakerism 101 and "lots of First Day School". Retired from the postal service.

**Kathy Reilly** is PYM Director of Finance and a member of Medford Monthly Meeting. As Director of Finance she has worked in coordinating Treasurers Groups & in developing and printing the Treasurer's Guide. She is a Certified Management Accountant and has MBA and M Ed degrees. She has served as Monthly Meeting treasurer, clerk and member of trustees & currently is a member of the Inreach/Outreach Committee of the Meeting.

## In Western Quarter

### The Faces of Islam ~ at West Grove Meeting

The Faces of Islam is an ongoing forum, 7 p.m. Sunday evenings, at West Grove Friends Meeting, 120 Harmony Road, West Grove, Pennsylvania 19390. For descriptions of the films, ask for the on-paper flier or an e-mail; ask [gailnewbold@verizon.net](mailto:gailnewbold@verizon.net).

**4/13** – Monsieur Ibrahim (2001)

**4/27** – Raja (2003)

**5/11** – Daughter of Keltoum (2001)

**5/25** – Children of Heaven (1999)

**6/8** – The Syrian Bride (2004)

**6/22** – Reel Bad Arabs (2004)

**7/8** – Persepolis (2007)

More information: Wick Williams at 610-444-6951 or [wickwill@aol.com](mailto:wickwill@aol.com) Film schedule may be subject to change. Call 304-639-4558 to confirm film selection.

### Historic Meetinghouses ~ May – September

Old Kennett Meeting, on Rt. 1 at Kendal's entrance: Join in worship with Kennett Meeting, last Sundays, 6/29, 7/27, and 8/31 at 11 a.m.. Cookies and Punch after. (No one at Kennett Meeting on these dates!)

Homeville Meetinghouse, on Rt. 896 at Homeville: 5/25 and 8/31 at 2 p.m.

London Britain Meeting, on Rt. 896 one-half mile south of Kemblesville: Join in worship with Newark Meeting: every Sunday in July & August at 10:30 a.m. Contact: Shelley Hastings 410-392-9164.

Annual London Britain Art Show: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Sunday 8/17 Rain or Shine. Local artists exhibiting.

Parkersville Meetinghouse, on Parkersville Rd., one mile north of Rt. 1: 9/14 at 2:00 p.m.

Penns Grove Meetinghouse, 725 Pennsgrove Road, Lincoln University: 6/22, 7/27, 8/24 at 10 a.m.

Colora Meetinghouse, east of Rising Sun MD at MD Rt.272 & MD Rt.273: 9/21 at 2 p.m.

Contact: Mary Sproat 610-444-3667 or Western Quarterly Meeting office 610-444-1012

### London Grove PLANT SALE ~ Sat., May 10

Plants ready for your garden and for Mothers' Day, waiting for you at the London Grove Plant Sale, 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. at London Grove Meeting. Go inside for the delicious lunch, baked goods and fresh mushrooms, and a few added attractions. All proceeds donated to service organizations.

**Beginnings: Tick Tock** ~ The Tick Tock Early Learning Center arose out of the concern of four members of Kennett Meeting, Sally Lighty, Connie Nichols, Jean Tennant and Jane Vincenti to have a "Head Start" program for the disadvantaged pre-schoolers of the area. This began 1961, two years before there was a federal program across the nation. In that era the mushroom workers were from Southern Appalachia and more mushrooms were grown in New Garden Township than in the rest of PA, NJ, DE and MD combined.

The founders were able to get a starting grant from the Chace Fund of PYM, supplemented with another grant the following year, to rent the former Tick Tock Bar from

Bonnie Reynolds of Hockessin Meeting, and to refresh and supply the facility.

### The Completed Clothing Circle

Kennett Meeting Friends' 4<sup>th</sup> annual clothing drive occurred 3/30-4/6 at the meetinghouse. The drive supports the Clothing Bank of Delaware, supplier for the Clothing Give-Aways held by Kennett Friends to provide hot-weather and cold-weather clothes in the community at no cost. An special smile goes out to each Friend who planned and participated.

## January Quarterly Meeting

Friends gathered for Quarterly Meeting on January 20 at Kennett Friends Meeting. After greetings, Friends joined together in worship. Vocal ministry began by reminding us we are a religion of seekers - we are called to seek, and to grow, and to keep of our own backgrounds what we are not called to shed. Love deepens us and shows us the way. Love carries us if we find the place where love is burning, and where we can take it out, and show the world.

After worship, Jessie Cocks invited Friends into the Workshop on "How We Respond to Economic Differences." To begin, Jessie affirmed for us that any work on our human differences is not easy ground. Take care of yourself while you do this work. In an exploration about class, or economic difference, "it's all good." If there's a moment that seems to be an obstacle, an edge or hot spot, that's a delicious moment – a place for growth. Just notice that spot. Don't apply fear, guilt or shame. Welcome the spot and be in it. Keep with love and faith, rather than fear. Into this space, Friends spoke what the words "Money" and "Class" brought to mind. Some of what happened next is on page 6.

Meeting for the business of Quarterly Meeting began with worship and responses to the 10th and 11th Queries on Stewardship of the Environment & Stewardship of Resources. We are part of the environment. This is us, and it is sacred. One Meeting's response expressed a distress that many children have become homeless, and noted that in U.S. priorities today, care of our neighbors is not placed at a high importance.

The October meeting minutes were approved with a few changes. Next, a minute from W. Qtr. Steering Committee was heard, recognizing a leading of Charles (Chip) Thomas to visit the Monthly Meetings in Western Quarter, with a concern for the Quarterly Meeting. Friends approved a minute recognizing and supporting this travel. The treasurer's report was heard and accepted. 22% of the Quarterly Meeting's net worth is in cash; the rest is in investments. Friends expressed gratitude for of Kathy Hahn's skilled and dedicated service as treasurer; Kathy's term ends June 30, 2008.

The CATA organization (Farmworker Support Committee), is moving the office location due to plans of their previous landlord. CATA had requested that WQ lend some office space temporarily, however CATA has found other space. Friends are asked to note: CATA local staff and volunteers are seeking

volunteers to assist fund-raising for a new, permanent space. Friends are invited to volunteer.

A report on George Fox Friends School was offered by Linda Currie. Christina Butler, new Head of school, began in late.2007. New brochures for the school are out. The most well-attended part of the school's services is the Early Learning Center for infants and preschoolers, who benefit from the program while parents work.

Phil Gilbert reminded us Western Quarter may send four Friends to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) Nominating Committee. Friends, consider getting on the committee. You will meet Friends from meetings all around PYM, while serving. Phil also reported from the ad hoc committee of the Quarter to look into improved sound so all can hear. The committee will continue its work and report to the WQ Steering Committee in Third Month. Concluding the business, Friends joined in appreciation and worship together. Children returned to the meetinghouse, enthusiastic from a great time at the Ashland Nature Center. All enjoyed fellowship and a delicious lunch, prepared and served by Kennett Meeting Friends.

## Notes to MM Friends

### **3 Opportunities -Quaker Action- Westtown & Mexico**

\*4/25 3 pm- 4/26 10 pm: **Friends' Day of the Earth**, at Westtown School:

- ~ An inspiring student organized conference on environmental activism and empowerment
- ~ Student representatives from all over the region and country.
- ~ Student led panels, workshops, activities focused on strategizing for a more sustainable world, and an Organizations and Schools fair, local and organic food, and more.

For more information, schedule & online registration: [www.Westtown.edu/fsdoe](http://www.Westtown.edu/fsdoe) Phone: 610-399-7782

\*6/23 – 6/30: **Mexico Summer Workcamp**, sponsored by Westtown Quaker Leadership Program

- ~ The workcamp is an experiential, bio-regionally based educational program focusing on cloud forest conservation, sustainable development and cultural exchange, at Las Canadas in Huatusco, Mexico.
- ~ High Sch. juniors and seniors, recent grads, and undergraduate students & adults; 12 participants.
- ~ Workcampers are not expected to speak Spanish fluently. The group will be led by Alan Wright, who has more than a decade of experience in environmental education.

~ Applications are due by May 1. Flyers available through W Qtr. or from Westtown.

Contact: [paula.kline@westtown.edu](mailto:paula.kline@westtown.edu)

\*6/13 – 6/15: **Environmental Leadership Summer Workcamp**, at Westtown School, hosted by Westtown School Quaker Leadership Program

~An experiential leadership program focusing on the big question: Can we design sustainable communities for our future?

~ Live and work together on the Westtown School campus and explore the social, economic, spiritual and

ecological issues and skills needed for developing sustainable life practices.

~ High school juniors and seniors, recent graduates, and undergraduate students and adults who are eager, comfortable working outdoors and getting messy, and willing to share leadership roles.

~ Applications due by May 1st. Late applications considered as space allows.

Contact: [paula.kline@westtown.edu](mailto:paula.kline@westtown.edu) & see website [www.westtown.edu](http://www.westtown.edu)

## **Events and Opportunities**

### **Middle East Working Group & Delegation ... & You?**

The PYM Middle East Working Group is seeking *new members*. The main focus of the group has been Israel/Palestine, especially supporting the Friends Meetinghouse in Ramallah and the Friends International Center, beside the Meetinghouse in Ramallah.

A *delegation* to include younger Friends is in planning. Current Young Friends (High school, and Young Adult Friends) are enthusiastically welcomed in the working group. – Ken Johnson, [kwj1@psu.edu](mailto:kwj1@psu.edu) .

### **Friends Delegation to India in Nov. 2008**

India Friends Working Group in PYM is planning a delegation of Friends to visit Friends in India and to attend the regional gathering of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), Asia-West Pacific Section. The working group seeks applications from Friends in their *late teens through 30's*. There are about 2000 Friends in central India, primarily in Madhya Pradesh. Meeting together, we can learn from one another. Isolation decreases, and friendship and our spiritual foundations increase. Years ago, connections between PYM Friends and Indian Friends flowered when George Willoughby was in India seeking greater understanding of Ghandi's teachings. More recently Viv Hawkins has been another strong connecting link. The Working Group is committed to ongoing work for social justice in India and to connecting with Indian Friends. In W, Qtr., contact Scott Rhodewalt 610-455-1907 or the W. Qtr. office.

### **Peace Fair Saturday, June 14 at Birmingham Mtng.**

- ~ 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- ~ Peace organizations, DVD "Prophets of Peace" shown all day, Birmingham's Peace Garden, Children's Activities, music, photo exhibit, refreshments.
- ~ All donations go to purchase landmine detectors for U.N landmine removal programs.

**A Lift to Philadelphia:** Curious about the Interim Meetings of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting? Go in to Interim Meeting, Visit, meet Friends from across the Yearly Meeting: Carpool with a W. Qtr. Friend. Contact Gail Newbold, 610-869-3455 or 610-444-1012 and [gailnewbold@verizon.net](mailto:gailnewbold@verizon.net) .

## Friends' Employment Opportunities

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is seeking to fill several new positions as a result of upcoming retirements and planned reorganization. Information is available at the *Volunteer and Staff Job Listings* page at [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org), and/or contact Ginny Connolly, Human Resources Coordinator, 215-241-7225 or [humanresources@pym.org](mailto:humanresources@pym.org).

## Young Friends & Young Adult Friends

### Western Quarter

#### Service Project, all ages, April 19 at Quarterly

**Meeting:** We'll go to Tick Tock Early Learning Center. This great day care service is available for families of all income brackets, and it was started by Friends (see page 3 in this newsletter) - come on out! We'll give you a note if you need volunteer hours for a school requirement. ☺

If possible, RSVP ahead, to Gail, thanks.

Ages: All! Please see top of page 2.

Here's Our Schedule →

9 a.m. Sign in, carpools arranged

9:15 or 9:20 a.m. Carpool to Tick Tock

Work outside if weather is nice; bring old work clothes, something to protect from paint (?) maybe gloves, hat, a favorite paintbrush or shovel?

1:00 Lunch at New Garden Meeting

#### **Summer Quaker Fun Days –Register soon !**

See our wonderful, informative brochure in your meetinghouse or from Gail Newbold or Kerry Harper. In this Newsletter: basics on the back page, "Happenings" (see June 13). 3rd year ☺Fun and affirming☺

#### **More Activities**

New ideas for events or projects are welcomed. Call Gail Newbold day or evening at 610-869-3455 or [info@localquaker.org](mailto:info@localquaker.org) or [gailnewbold@verizon.net](mailto:gailnewbold@verizon.net), or phone the WQ Office at 610-444-1012. Are you an adult volunteer, a few hours in a year??

#### **Resources for Children & Religious Education**

Have you tried the new PYM Religious Educ. Website? Recommended! [www.pym.org/education/children](http://www.pym.org/education/children)

#### **P Y M Middle School and High School Events**

Events are posted on the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) website at [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org), or use your telephone to get more information.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL, grades 6-8\***

*Middle School events are posted on [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org), and Elizabeth Walmsley sends out e-mailed notices. E-mail Elizabeth to be added to the Middle Sch. e-list.*

**5/2-4; Camp Swatara Weekend**, special Middle Sch.

Friends program at the Caln Qtr. family weekend.

**730-/8/3: Middle School Friends activities at**

**Residential Yearly Meeting**, bring your family and friends to DeSales University PA.

\*Contact Elizabeth Walmsley at 1-800-2200 PYM extension 7171 or 215-241-7171, also [Elizabethw@pym.org](mailto:Elizabethw@pym.org) and [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org).

#### **HIGH SCHOOL, grades 9-12\***

*E-mail [CookieCaldwell](mailto:CookieCaldwell) to get on the Young Friends (High School) e-list.*

**4/25-27: Young Friends are invited to Clerking Workshop** at Pendle Hill with Arthur Larrabee. For financial assistance contact Young Friends & W. Qtr. office.

**5/2-4: Young Friends at Camp Swatara**, in the Caln Qtr. weekend. Annual; great reviews.

**Register now for the Gathering:** Come to Friends General Conference Gathering, 6/28-7/5 at U. of Pittsburgh, Johnstown PA. See [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org)

\*Cookie Caldwell at 1-800-2200 PYM x 7222 or [Coookiec@pym.org](mailto:Coookiec@pym.org) and [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org).

#### **Resources For Young Friends & Young Adults (14-35)**

#### **Friends General Conference (FGC) YOUTH Web Site**

Gatherings, resources, Friends, travel, dialogues, across N. America, for ages 14-35, "and Friends of All Ages," [www.quakeryouth.org](http://www.quakeryouth.org).

**Pendle Hill** workshops, books, resident program, more: [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org) or 610-566-4507.

**Internships, more:** Quaker Information Center, [www.quakerinfo.org](http://www.quakerinfo.org); & AFSC [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org).

## Young Adult Friends

### **YOUNG ADULT Friends - Approx 18-35 or 40**

For resources or contacts you don't see elsewhere, contact WQ staff Gail Newbold at [gailnewbold@verizon.net](mailto:gailnewbold@verizon.net) or 610-869-3455.

Philadelphia Young Adult Friends (PYAF): Coordinator Sadie Forsythe is at 215-241-7075, [SadieF@pym.org](mailto:SadieF@pym.org). Ask Sadie!

#### **Grants for Young Adults' Service, Study, Ministry**

Friends Institute grants are available to enable young adult Friends (YAFs) to follow leadings of the spirit in ministry, service, witness and Quaker study. Grants may also fund projects that are of direct concern to Friends Institute (a PYM group for young adult Friends, 18-40 yrs., active members or attenders of a Meeting in PYM.)

Next grant application deadline is May 1, 2008.

Grant application guidelines available online at:

<http://www.pym.org/friendsinstitute/figg/>

Inquiries and application materials may be sent to:

[friendsinstitute@pym.org](mailto:friendsinstitute@pym.org)

#### **Conference for Young Adult Friends. May 23-26**

A conference for Young Adult Friends (ages 18-35) from U.S. and Canada, at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana. "Living as Friends, Listening Within;" All branches of Friends are invited & are in the planning committee. The conference will explore leadings and callings, provide for fellowship and dialogue, include diverse Quaker theology, & workshops led by Earlham School of Religion. Contact PYM Young Adult Friends Coordinator Sadie Forsythe: 215-241-7075\*, [sadieF@pym.org](mailto:sadieF@pym.org), or visit conference website at <http://www.fgcquaker.org/qy/yaf-conference-2008>

**Young Adult Leadership Development Program-** This highly recommended program is offered 6/15-8/3; hurry to see if space is still available; Zachary Moon, [zmoon@pendlehill.org](mailto:zmoon@pendlehill.org), 800-742-3150 ext. 160. Many additional opportunities at Pendle Hill website- [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org).

### **Delegations - India, Middle East**

YA Friends & High Sch. Friends 16 and above are especially welcomed to apply for Delegations to India (November 08) & the Middle East ;and to join the Middle East Working Group.- - See page 4.

### **Upcoming**

**TurtleDove Folk Club** See [www.turtledove.org](http://www.turtledove.org) , 802-431-3433, [folkbloke@kennett.net](mailto:folkbloke@kennett.net) .

Shows at 8:00 p.m. at West Grove Meetinghouse.

**4/26:** Dana and Susan Robinson. Two rich & intimate voices, with powerful guitar and banjo, plus occasional fiddle and mandolin. Songwriter Dana, "modern day Woody Guthrie," brings it together. Said to invoke "the heart of folk music." (Saturday)

**5/17:** David Francey. A Scottish native transplanted to Canada, award-winning songwriter. Folk melodies, spirited, with a special nod to sea songs and Celtic hybrids. (Saturday)

**Hadley Memorial Fund** Free lectures and performances. Friends from Kennett Meeting, and members of the Philadelphia Ethical Society, select the Hadley Board. [www.hadleyfund.org](http://www.hadleyfund.org)

Information or schedule changes: 610-444-1855

**4/11:** Libana. Seven women bring a world of music, also dance. The group began 27 years ago to bring women's often-undocumented, creative contributions to light.

Ancient melodies, musical journeys, with instruments from around the world, bring us closer to cultures including the Balkans, Middle East, Europe & Mediterranean, Africa, Asia, South America. Directly to the heart, inspiring. Unionville High School, 8 p.m.

**5/2:** Charlie Zahm. Beautiful Celtic songs and melodies. Master collector of the heritage, and master at guitar; Zahm communicates love and respect for the songs. Unionville High School, 8 p.m.

**7/11:** Alligator Zydeco. Infectious beat, authentic instruments. Cajun/French/Creole vocals, accordions, washboard, guitar, bass, drums; dynamic dance music. Anson Nixon Park, 7-9 p.m. Raindate July 13, 7-9 p.m.

**Pendle Hill** *Quaker Center for Study and Contemplation*, 610-566-4507, [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org) . Pendle Hill is home to Workshops, Retreats and Short Courses, Personal Retreats and Sojourns, Young Adult Programs, and the Resident Study Program. Visit Pendle Hill Bookstore or see the Books and Publications at the website.

Nearby, full of Friends and friends, trees an retreat spaces, come to Pendle Hill! Examples of upcoming weekends classes are: The Sacred Art of Listening, Understanding Islam, Interfaith Peacemaking, Clerking with Arthur Larrabee, James Nayler & the Lamb's War, Alternatives to Violence(AVP) Basic Workshop, more at [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org) .

- P.S. Financial assistance is available. Contacts: *Pendle Hill; your Meeting; Western Qtr. Meeting.*

## **Recent Explorations**

### **Learning & Unlearning; Inquires About & Beyond Class**

Supported by Jessie's advice to Just Notice any edges or fears, and not to apply judgment, shame or guilt, Friends shared what Class may mean to them. Friends responses were a rich array for contemplation. Money is creativity, love. Give it away. Money is nothing. I don't believe in class. We make assumptions(they may or may not be valid) Class as inefficent; divides people. is useless in the Kingdom. Uncomfortable with different classes. Class is full of traps-give love instead. Money gets closely relate with ego. The group held the many responses in the light. Jessie asked us again, to notice where we had our own places to ponder. And she suggested, as we go out into the community, how does our personal, even spiritual learning about class deepen our unity with others and with society? Jesus talked a lot about class and privilege. Another pair of concepts to ponder is "margin" and "mainstream." When or where do we experience each? Do we marginalize or bring in a particular individual: in Meeting? In the community? Spiritually, does moving toward equality mean letting go of assumptions, and fears, and even guilt? Let us pray into a place where there is clear, simple connection human to human. Let's move beyond the differences, to a place where we work and play together, learning and sharing. This is where wonderful things occur.

### **Exploring Islam**

The Faces of Islam series brought a variety of speakers to West Grove Meetinghouse. Numerous friends and neighbors have been on hand to participate. Wick Williams shared a few observations after listening to the first series of speakers.

First, there are many faces to Islam; there is not one face. Wick is impressed with a sense that in Islam, God (or Allah or Spirit) is always there. The practice of praying five times a day keeps the focus on God, for the practitioner. Perhaps there is a parallel between this and Quakers' experiences and intentions that worship is every day and becomes a way of being, a path. Then, with regard to the various "spheres" of modern life, in Islam God is in every sphere; for example in politics, and in one's work or occupation.

An image Wick has heard repeatedly is that Islam means the state of surrender; the state of completely surrendering to God, so God is always there. Another comment one hears, describing the practitioner's focus, is that Islam is about mercy, while Jesus is about love. A complicating or enriching factor is that in different locations, Islam has been overlaid onto the local culture that preceded the coming of Islam. There are many varieties. Each speaker or film provides another nuance. Wick hopes the continuing inquiries, perhaps initially stimulated by fear of an unknown, will "take some of the edges off" and allow us to look into a mirror rather than see a big gulf between different religious traditions. The exploration continues with the Films, calendar on page 2.

### **Palestine & Israel***Carlie's talk.*

Carlie Numi spoke at London Grove Forum on 3/1. She offered experiences as a member of a delegation

to Israel and Palestine in late 2007. Carlie showed us maps indicating the shrinking islands of Palestinian society circled by new Israeli settlements, the wall, roadblocks and new high-speed roads on which only Israelis may travel. Carlie witnessed disturbing scenes of conflict: home demolition, the giant wall that weaves around Palestinian lands, croplands no longer accessible, damage from rockets, frequent roadblocks impeding everyday Palestinian travel.

At the same time, "regular people" are creating reconciliation day by day. In Israeli peace groups, Palestinian peace groups, and Israeli-Palestinian groups, people build relationships and actively engage in efforts both "basic," such as lawsuits and demonstrations, and wonderfully creative, such as a radio show where people call in to reach out and speak with a caller from the "other" group. Women in Black has been demonstrating 20 years in West Jerusalem for an end to the occupation. There are Hebrew University students for peace. Palestinians and Israelis work together to bring a message of reconciliation, for example the group Combatants for Peace. It has grown from eleven to 300 members in less than three years. They say the occupation is the "enemy." In the Bereaved Families Circle, both Palestinian and Israeli families come together, and they have become close friends. The goal is to help break the cycle of violence and walk together on the long road of reconciliation. Some websites of interest are [www.theparentscircle.org](http://www.theparentscircle.org) (Bereaved Families Circle), [www.ifpbdel.org](http://www.ifpbdel.org) (Interfaith Peace Builders), [www.combatantsforpeace.org](http://www.combatantsforpeace.org), [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org) (American Friends Service Committee – AFSC), [www.JVP.org](http://www.JVP.org) (Jewish Voice for Peace), and [www.endtheoccupation.org](http://www.endtheoccupation.org).

#### **Friends Reconciliation Workshops in Kenya**

On 3/13 David Zarembka and Gladys Kamonya, Friends of African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams, traveling in the U.S. for 2-3 weeks from Kenya, shared about the recent months of unrest in Kenya. Friends in Kenya continue the healing workshops, both AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) and HROC (healing from trauma), as well as prayer and Letters for Peace, and they continued right through the violent times after Kenya's December election. (See <http://quakerservice.blogspot.com> for reports from

Kenya. See especially the two Letters by all Kenyan Friends, united.) There are 155,871 Friends in Africa and 87,896 Friends in North America. David outlined nine factors toward the outbreak of violence, and beautiful stories of reconciliation through the dynamics of the face-to-face workshops. David, who is a member in Baltimore Yearly Meeting, reminded us, as N. Americans, it is well to think in terms of AVP workshops in the U.S, also. U.S. has the highest homicide rate in the world. In David's words, "So come to Kenya!" - There are AGLI Workcamps each summer.

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### **Our Home Place; Discovering the Fire**

For Earth Day: *Earth, our home, is integral in our spiritual lives. To receive newsletter "BeFriending Creation," Contact Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) at 173-b N. Prospect St., Burlington VT 05401-1607*

Do you have a special, personal PLACE? "Our home place is the stage for our metamorphosis. It is our calling to find it. It's the place that takes us back in. Only a small, flickering flame inside us guides us. We can imagine what it's like by watching people who burn with knowledge and energy around us to change the world, or by reading the prophets and poets who make it possible to link head to heart, place to being, and matter to spirit. Those who burn with love. We all need to catch on fire.

If what we value is separate from how we act, then we can only continue to repeat destructive patterns. Why not an ecological cosmology that integrates the objective and the sacred, the chemical and the moral, the known and the unknown – (recognizing) empirical truths of science (and) allowing that the universe won't be understood solely by what we can measure?

We need to wake up to new ways of living in the world, beginning with a new view of our place in it. We need to learn how to experience nature in a numinous way again. Religion is about reordering, reorienting, seeing deeply into the pattern of the universe. The answer lies perhaps in the fire, not next to it. – Tim Traver, *Sippewissett or Life on a Salt Marsh*, Chelsea Green Publishing, 2006. Quoted in "BeFriending Creation" newsletter, Jan-Feb. 2008

## Happenings

\***Quarterly Meeting Sat. 4/19 – PROGRAM:** Phila. Yearly Mtng. Financial Stewardship **YOUTH & FAMILY:** Painting and mulching, gardening Service Project at Tick Tock Early Learning Center, see pages 2,5. Adults: See pages 1,2.

\***Young Friends, and Young Adult Friends:** See pages 4, 5 & 6, along with other articles you're interested in.

### April

**13: Faces of Islam: Film "Monsieur Ibrahim,** 7 p.m. at West Grove Meetinghouse – See p.1 for rest of film calendar.

**19: Western Quarterly Meeting & Service Project,** at New Garden Friends Meeting, pages 1, 2.

**19: 4th Annual Gathering of Friends on Peace, Justice and an Earth Restored,** for Friends all around Phila. Y. M. Discover ways to strengthen what we do. 9:30-2, 4th & Arch Meetinghouse Contact Pat Finley [finleyp@temple.edu](mailto:finleyp@temple.edu) .

**21-25: Understanding Islam** workshop, Pendle Hill [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org) ~many additional workshops at website.

**22: Earth Day**

**25-27: Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence,** Pendle Hill [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org).

### May

**1: Deadlines,** for Environmental Leadership Summer Workcamp at Westtown School (p. 4) & for Friends Institute Grants for Young Adult (18-40) Friends (p. 5).

**2-4: Camp Swatara weekend; Special programs for High Sch. Yng. Friends and Middle Sch; Friends,** sign-up details on p.////, or go your activities page at [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org).

**10: London Grove Plant Sale,** Plants, Trees, plants of all sorts, vegetables, Lunch, baked items, mushrooms, kindergarten "white elephants." All proceeds donated to Quaker services and local service organizations. 7:00-2:00, London Grove Mtng. at Rt. 926 & Newark Rd.

### June

**13:** Time to get your registrations in for **Quaker Fun Days, for kids ages 7-12 and Leaders in Training 13-17.** W. Qtr. Quaker fun on August 11-14, 9-3:00. Contact Gail Newbold.

**14:** Send all news, announcements, articles, & stories in to WQ office for the **Summer edition** of this Newsletter, *The Friendly News*. E-mail is: [gailnewbold@verizon.net](mailto:gailnewbold@verizon.net)

\*Summer Quarterly Meeting on 7/19 or 7/20; host meeting to be announced. Query to consider: Fifth Query on Education.

\*Friends General Conference Gathering – June 28– July 5, at Univ. of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Register online or by mail, now until Full!! FGC is a year-round resource., also, [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org) and 215-561-1700.

\*Summer Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Sessions: July 30-Aug. 3 at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA. All ages.

**EVERY Friday: Vigil for Peace,** 4:00-5:00 p.m. at Union & State Sts., Kennett Sq. all welcome. [gailnewbold@verizon.net](mailto:gailnewbold@verizon.net); 610-869-3455.

~ SEND announcements: Gail Newbold sends out e-mails to Monthly Meetings, does phone calls, flyers, mailings, & the WQ Newsletter. To post on WQM Website, send info. to Gail Pietrzyk, [webmaster@localquakers.org](mailto:webmaster@localquakers.org) or 610-932-5961