

Salem Quarter News

Spring 2016



*I will praise thee;
for I am fearfully
and wonderfully made.*

Life is meant to be lived from a Center,
a divine Center....

There is a divine Abyss within us all, a
holy Infinite Center, a Life who speaks
in us and through us to the world.

We have all heard this holy Whisper at
times. At times we have followed this
Whisper, a divine equilibrium of life, an
amazing effectiveness of living set in.

But too many of us have heeded the
Voice only at time.... We have not counted
this Holy Thing within us to be the most
precious thing in the world.

Thomas Kelly

On the Cover:

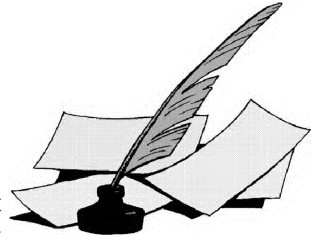
Photo Quiet Time at Pendle Hil, Tom Etherington

Text Psalm 139:14 KJV

Back to Core Values

Barry Sloane.

Clerk of Quarter



When I was 8 years old, my parents sent me to a summer camp for eight weeks. They had cool tents instead of cabins and a beautiful lake. However, the chef was, shall we say, a wild and creative guy. One morning they served up the vilest farina I have ever tasted. I'm not a picky eater, but it was so bad, nobody ate it. A week later, Sunday desert was individual bowls with a scoop of cold leftover farina with Chocolate syrup dribbled on the top. That didn't go over too well either. Nobody got sick from the food, but it wasn't real appetizing. I don't know if it was a coincidence or not, but it seemed like every time they cut the grass, we would have chopped spinach the next day. OK, maybe the chef had a sense of humor, but only he knew for sure.

Like many camps at the time (maybe they still do this) they had the camp divided into two teams, in our case the Red and the Blue. We would compete for points and at the end of the season there would be an awards banquet. The winners would have a "sumptuous" chicken banquet and the losers would be behind a large curtain and be served corned beef hash. As it turned out I was on the losing team. The corned beef hash was delicious and the best meal I had at that camp. I understand the chicken wasn't so hot. There were two takeaways to this story. The winners aren't always the real winner since having more and better doesn't necessarily translate into being happier. And to this day I have a nearly obsessive fondness for corned beef hash.

Eight years later, I went to a survival school called Hurricane Island Outward Bound School. It was an intense month of physical training, learning to sail and navigate at sea, team building, community service and a three day solo time in the wilderness with a sleeping bag, knife, a fish line with no hook, a tarp, 11 matches and the clothes on our back. We were divided into "watches" or teams of 12 guys per watch. One rule they had was if everybody didn't get through an exercise, nobody would eat including the instructor.

There was a watch member whose name was Jerry. Jerry had at best a fifth grade education and a thick accent that was hard to understand. We thought he was pretty stupid and he was marginalized because of that. One day we had an exercise where we had to get over a wide trench using two boards and three tires on ropes without leaving anyone

behind or touching the ground. We must have spent an hour trying to figure out how to do it and several times Jerry tried to say something and was ignored. Finally, he just blew up in frustration and started screaming at us for ignoring him. We let him speak and to our surprise he had the solution and it was elegant. From that day forward Jerry was respected and never ignored again. There were takeaways from this story that guides everything I have done since that day. Never, ever, underestimate the other person. Each of us has a talent (a gift) that can contribute to the common good. We need to be open and listen more. That fall when I started attending Quaker meeting for the first time, I learned that the “talent” also translates into the inner light.

Our country is at a crossroads and there is a good deal of strident conversation as to what we should do about it. At the risk of sounding like a conspiracy theory nut, there appears to be an increasing lack of transparency given that, thanks to the Supreme Court decision *Citizens v. United*, well moneyed people with hidden agendas can seriously influence elections and policy. Concurrent with this development, there is unprecedented gerrymandering of congressional districts and an attack on basic voting rights that is a throwback to the Jim Crow days. Worse yet, there is a consolidation of wealth in the top 1% that is alarming especially as it is rapidly depleting the middle class and expanding the ranks of the working poor and poor. Somewhere, somehow, we took a wrong turn or two. These developments are symptomatic of a serious cancer society faces; obsessive greed and the paralyzing fear that we may lose what we have.

There is a lot of talk about going back to the “good old days” being ‘great again’ or re-embracing “family values”. I would suggest that there is a germ of truth here. We do need to retrench and go back to basics. That said I believe the people advocating these concepts are not learning from history or if they are, they have not gone far enough back in history to get the lesson.

If we look at William Penn’s holy experiment, we may get some guidance on what to do now. Pennsylvania was the only American colony that was a direct grant to an individual (William Penn). This land was payment of a huge debt the Crown owed Penn’s family. The other grants were charters to companies whose objective was to make money for the badly overextended mother country, not necessarily benefiting the people living there. Penn had an opportunity to work with very few constraints by comparison.

Penn and other early Quakers knew that for their holy experiment to work they needed a lot of Non-Quakers. Penn and his fellow Quakers had several values they were able to share with non-Quakers. Free will

and faith were core values as was listening to one's neighbor and cooperating with all people recognizing that all people are equal in the eyes of God. The American Quakers had no compunction about competition and encouraged it as a way to produce high quality goods. Their concept of wealth was spiritual, mental and personal. Wealth meant that people would lend each other helping hands as needed and share work, schools and government buildings; not necessarily building individual wealth, but building the commonwealth.

The result was that Pennsylvania became the wealthiest of the colonies with a lively middle class and eventually, the birth place of our country. This was a great departure from the European model of the time where the Nobility (1%) of the population controlled everything and most of the population were still peasants with no say and little hope.

As a country we need to go back to the basics that William Penn and others taught the world. Also each of us has learned lessons similar to mine. We need to remember our core values as individuals and act on them whenever possible.

This issue features a piece by Kate Coon of Minneapolis (MN) Monthly Meeting. She shares her experience of finding spiritual guidance in her every-day workplace experiences.

The article first appeared in *What Canst Thou Say? What Canst Thou Say?* is an independent publication cooperatively produced by Friends who have felt the movement of the Spirit and wish to deepen their understanding of it by interacting with others who also have had experiences of the Divine. Issues contain stories of mystical experience and the growth that comes through contemplative practice. WCTS has been produced since 1964 and has previously published articles by Mary Waddington and Carol Roth. You can read back issues, request a sample copy, subscribe, or submit manuscripts at their website www.whatcanstthousay.org. Themes for future issues are:

May 2016	The Gift of Rest
Aug 2016	Messages
Nov 2016	Joy
Feb 2017	Becoming Vessels
May 2017	Spiritual Support
Aug 2017	Conflict in Meetings
Nov 2017	Sexuality and Spirituality

They also sponsor an annual gathering of Friendly mystics.

Salem Quarterly Meeting Minutes

12/13/2015

Salem Quarterly Meeting met 12/13/2015 at Mickleton Meetinghouse. Out of worship, clerk Barry Sloane (Mickleton) convened the meeting, welcomed Friends and visitors, and expressed our gratitude to Mickleton Friends for their hospitality. There was a Friendly presence for business of twenty-six representing all of the seven monthly meetings in the quarter.

Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting on 9/13/2015 were approved as they appeared in the Salem Quarter News.

On behalf of the Steering Committee, Paul Somers (Greenwich) reported on plans for upcoming quarterly meeting programs and the requests for donations received by the Quarter. *(See report p. 18)*

Paul Somers (Greenwich) reported on the South Jersey Chapter of the Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts including descriptions of the recent event, "Encountering the Quaker Muse," and the current art exhibit at Friends Village. *(See report p. 10)*

Emily Blanck (Mickleton) reported on the most recent Continuing Sessions. Meeting twice a year, this new structure replaces the Interim Meeting format which met six times a year. PYM structure is now divided into two parts, Quaker Life and Administration. These committees will do much of the work of Interim Meeting with the support of Continuing Sessions. Continuing Sessions are open to all Friends; attendance may vary from 400 to 1,000. During this gathering, Friends connect with one another, share fellowship, worship, conduct business and attend thread meetings where they consider actions that PYM can do together. The next Continuing Session will be at Arch Street Meeting on 3/19/2016.

David Culver (Salem) reported from the Lower Alloways Creek committee highlighting the brainstorming session for the LAC meetinghouse on 10/25. *(See report p. 16)*

Quarter Nominating Committee has met and is on schedule to present a report in March.

Dietrich Preston (Woodbury), of the Tri-Quarter Gathering submitted a report on the 2015 Gathering on behalf of Cindy Cox Crispin, registrar. He thanked Marsha Gaspar, former clerk for her

service. He listed the new committee positions, (Clerk: Cindy Cox Crispin, Assistant clerk: George Crispin, Treasurer: Denise Pooley, Registrar: Dietrich Preston, Assistant Registrar: Ellen Preston) and announced the 2016 date and theme. He asked that the Quarter please continue or increase their pledge for next year. A complete financial account for this year will be forthcoming.

The Finance Committee report was submitted by Michael Shapiro (Salem) summarizing account activity and Steering Committee recommendations regarding requested donations. (*See report p. 9*)

Friends approved the Steering Committee recommendation to contribute \$500 to Friends School Mullica Hill towards their annual 8th Grade trip to Costa Rica. They further directed the Finance Committee to include a \$500 donation in the budget for each of the next three years.

Friends approved the Steering Committee recommendation to contribute a matching \$500 donation to the Narenj Tree Foundation who provides emergency humanitarian assistance to displaced communities.

Friends approved the Steering Committee recommendation to contribute \$300 to the Friends Village Annual Fund, earmarked for facilities improvement.

Friends approved a \$100 donation to Katrina McQuail for her to be a crew member for eXXpedition Amazon.

On behalf of the Salem Quarter Indian Affairs Committee, Sandra Boone Murphy (Mickleton) highlighted the committee's recent activity, Tribal events, and presented a proposed letter of support to the United States Federal District Court as requested by the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation. (*See letter p. 14*)

Friends approved the letter as presented with the inclusion of the docket number where appropriate and a reference to the number of members that we represent. The word faulty is to be removed from paragraph 3, line 2. The Salem Quarter mailing address is to be

used. Friends thanked the committee for their tireless efforts.

Mike Ayars (Woodstown) reported from Friends Village. On behalf of Friends Village he thanked the Quarter for their contribution to the Annual Fund. Do to demand, they are currently converting a residential wing to Assisted Living. He reminded Friends that admission status is an always changing state, available space changes almost from day to day.

A report from Friends School Mullica Hill was presented by Bill Carrigan (Mickleton). He expressed appreciation on behalf of the school for Quarter financial support of the annual 8th Grade Costa Rica education/service trip. The school has a current enrollment of 140 students, lower than preferred, but similar to last year. They have formed a Quaker Life Committee to comply with the new Friends Council on Education Membership process. The Quaker Outreach sub-committee has established an improved communication between Quakers and the school. They have two new Board members, Joe Moczydlowski and Kathi Stetser, bringing their total number of board members to eighteen. Bill recapped the recent events at the school and announced upcoming events, such as the holiday concert. He also noted that there are ways for Friends to support the school other than financially. These include volunteering and attending worship on Friday mornings.

The Worship & Ministry Committee met at the home of Michael & Rebecca Shapiro (Salem) on Friday evening 12/11/2015. Out of worship the group discussed plans for a fall 2016 workshop. (*See report p. 12*)

Three suggestions were made regarding June 2016 Quarterly Meeting: moving Quarterly meeting to Saturday that weekend to avoid traffic difficulties; present a program on birding facilitated by a local group; and scheduling a presentation by the Friends School Mullica Hill 8th Grade Students returning from Costa Rica.

Bob Horvay reported on the credit that we had with Quakerbooks, accrued when he was actively offering books for sale at quarter meetings. There was no apparent interest in the distribution of one book per meeting of the current Philadelphia Yearly Meeting book selection, *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson, described as a children's book with adult appeal. The account needed to be cleared so he opted to purchase several copies of *Going to Meeting* for Friends School Mullica Hill.

Finance Committee Report

12/13/2015

For the 2015-2016 FY we are waiting for 2nd quarter covenant payment from Salem and the December Fiduciary payout. Since last September our current expenses (Carpenter Lawn Care, Tom Etherington postage, Balance of the Education disbursements, Tri-Quarter pledge, SJC-FQA program expense, and JVS), are on target, totaling \$3,460. Our current available balance is \$6,535.64.

Since the Tri-Quarter gathering was cancelled last minute this year due to weather, our 2015-16 contribution of \$1,000 has been returned. We can keep it and use the money elsewhere or return all or part of it to defray some of the expenses used in preparation for the 2015 Gathering. Steering Committee recommends returning to the Tri-Quarter committee up to \$500 of our original pledge, as the need is demonstrated, to cover expenses incurred in preparing for the cancelled event.

Steering Committee has been notified regarding intended requests for donations from Friends School Mullica Hill, Friends Village, Narenj Tree Foundation via Seaville Meeting, and Katrina McQuail of eXXpedition Amazon via Bob Horvay. Based on our current budget, available funds to make contributions total between \$1,150 and \$1,980. The Steering Committee agreed to recommend a \$500 contribution this year and direct the Finance Committee to include a \$500 donation for each of three additional years for the Costa Rica fundraising at Friends School Mullica Hill. Seaville Meeting's request for a \$500 matching donation is recommended and a \$300 contribution is recommended towards carpeting at Friends Village. Donations for the 2016-17 FY can be considered and recommended when the Finance Committee meets during the first of the year.

Monthly Meetings are asked to consider their covenants for 2016-17.

Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts
South Jersey Chapter
December 13, 2015

During the summer and fall of 2015 the South Jersey Chapter has been busy, both as artists and as organizers.

The first project was the *Encountering the Quaker Muse* event, so well documented in the Salem Quarter News. Six artists, as it happened, each in a different discipline, created new art at the historic Lower Alloways Creek Meeting House, all of it inspired and based upon the experience of being in and around the building.

In logistic support of the event, a Port-a-Pot was rented from English Sewage Systems of Bridgeton for the day at a cost of \$125.00. Involved artists also brought cookies, drinks, and chairs. We thank the LAC committee, especially clerk Dave Culver, for their support of *Encountering the Quaker Muse*.

The second project, the annual December through January Art Show at Friends Village, gave the Chapter an opportunity to reach beyond its roots in Salem Quarter, drawing artists from Haddonfield and Burlington Quarters in New Jersey, as well as two from Caln Quarter in Pennsylvania! The show, currently on display in the Fenwick Commons at Friends Village, is large and has a wide variety of media and styles. Already there have been several sales resulting.

To accomplish these events, the Chapter has sought out emails and addresses of artists from the area, with the goal of inviting all to join the chapter.

Because the \$30 cost of personal membership sends \$12 back to the chapter, we have requested and been granted the status of an account within the Salem Quarter finances.

- Paul M. Somers, clerk

***"What are those American flags
doing in our Quaker cemetery?"***

There are numerous responses to that question.

At Quarterly Meeting on March 13 we will hear some of them from personal recollections from three Friends who have served in the Armed Forces.

Our panel and guests for the morning:

George Rubin, of Medford Monthly Meeting, is a WWII combat veteran, a member of a U.S. Eighth Air Force bomber crew, and prisoner of war in Germany. *Friends Journal* published an article by him in its August 2015 issue.

Mike Hainsworth, of Seaville Monthly Meeting and Salem Quarterly Meeting, is a U.S. Navy veteran, where he served on a Ballistic Missile submarine during the "Cold War."

Fred Melroy, of Medford Monthly Meeting, served in Vietnam in 1971 with the American Division. He has a partial disability from exposure to Agent Orange and hearing loss from rocket explosions.

The schedule for the day is on the back cover. Directions to Woodstown Meeting House are on Page 22.

Worship & Ministry Report

12/13/2015

The committee met at the home of Michael & Rebecca Shapiro (Salem) on Friday evening, 12/11. Seven Friends were present with two out of the seven meetings in the Quarter represented.

We discussed an idea for a previously proposed workshop series wherein the writings of historic Quaker journalists, both published and unpublished, would be presented, facilitated by Chris Densmore, curator of the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore. Participants would have the opportunity to read and discuss the journals. The committee is taking steps to make this proposal a reality.

Without other specific agenda items we gathered into a deep worship. Out of that worship arose reflections, questions, and concerns regarding the spiritual depth of vocal ministry around the Quarter. Our observations identified the ease with which we fall prey to routine and complacency. Our exposure to meetings other than our own may expose these weaknesses. We reflected on the value of travel.

Being mindful of the importance of spirit led messages, we considered ways to promote vocal ministry. We should hold speakers, both novice and experienced, in the Light, providing an environment of safety and security where trust encourages Friends to take that leap of faith and share their message. Making this clear by inviting vocal ministry may give confidence to the unsure among us. At the rise of worship complimenting a speaker either about the content of their message or their courage to offer a spirit led message would also be a positive reinforcement. We noted that ease in speaking out in worship comes with practice.

We closed in worship, fully aware that our observations, discussions, and conclusions had been truly led by the Spirit. We are each grateful for the opportunity to gather and share this deep worship experience.

Woodstown Meeting to Sponsor
Music at Friends

Woodstown Monthly Meeting will launch a new music series *Music At Friends* featuring New Jersey and community artists that will take place at the Woodstown Monthly Meeting Meetinghouse on Main Street, Woodstown, New Jersey.

The first two concerts feature the **Woodstown High School Chamber Choir & Guests on Sunday, April 3, 2016 at 7PM** and **Vocalist Sophie Taillefer with Dr. Martin Neron, pianist on Friday, May 6, 2016 at 7PM.**

A donation of \$10/adults, \$5/children is suggested. We are excited to be able to make this cultural offering to our community and open our Meetinghouse to a broader public.



Woodstown High School Chamber Choir

More information can be found on the website at <http://www.woodstownfriends.org> .

Letter in Support of Recognition of the Leni-Lenape Tribe

Copies of this letter were sent to the Clerk of the United States Federal District Court, Camden, NJ and the Clerk of the Law Division Superior Court, Mercer County, NJ

The Religious Society of Friends of Salem Quarter supports the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation's pursuit of due process and ultimate reaffirmation as a recognized Tribe in New Jersey. The lawsuit, filed July 20, 2015 - *Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation v. State of New Jersey* – represents our concerns for members of this Tribe, fellow citizens. We walk toward justice with the tribe's 3,000 members while they endure political hardships.

The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation is an American Indian Nation comprising interrelated families of Nanticoke and Lenape people who, from pre-colonial arrival, have been continuously maintaining their self-governing community. Since 1675, Quakers in New Jersey's southernmost communities of Gloucester, Cumberland, Salem, and Cape May counties have lived side by side with this Tribal Nation, with evidence in oral history and neighborly witness, as well as Quakers in Atlantic, Burlington and Camden counties. Our pursuit of civil liberty is bound with this Nation. We seek to reconcile misleading written records and avert potential cultural genocide, with support of our governance.

In 2011, Senator Jim Whelan ceased to bring forth his committee's work for a vote, Senate Bill 2841. His faulty reasoning identified an unjust fear and stereotyping of native interests in gaming. This Tribe has not falsified or breeched agreements causing the state's lack of reaffirmation. On the contrary, both their Tribal Constitution and spiritual practice denounce gaming. We are appalled that the state is positioned to rescind that recognition. Legislative decisions should be based in facts which forthrightly represent the citizens.

New Jersey's story is reflected in diverse cultural and historic preservation that deserves full acknowledgment of contributions from the original people of this land - called Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape, Bay Indians, Bridgeton Indians, and Indians of Cohansey Bridge. Without the state's recognition, Tribal Artisans are by law unable to represent their

wares as authentic. We value the gifts of these artisans and seek economic justice.

We see evidence of societal enlightenment within the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People; the World Council of Churches' denunciation of the Papal Bulls of the 15th century, the Doctrine of Discovery; and Pope Francis' plea for forgiveness, "...for crimes committed against the native peoples during the so-called conquest of America."

We urge the state to restore right relationship by reaffirming recognition of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation. Correspondence can be made through our Salem Quarter Indian Affairs Committee; contact information by email is aliibiondi@gmail.com, and by telephone 609 221-7247. Thank you for considering our request, our testament.

Respectfully submitted,
The Religious Society of Friends of Salem Quarter

Salem Quarter Lower Alloways Creek Meeting House Committee Report Dec.13, 2015

Our Committee sponsored a brainstorming session on October 25 to continue our search for appropriate uses for the Lower Alloway Creek Meeting House. Quakers and non-Quakers attended and participated enthusiastically. The consensus view was if this treasure is to be successfully preserved, it must also be utilized. Two trains of thought evolved: 1) Active Quaker Uses, and 2) Historic destination that could serve as the scene for many types of events. Here's a list of some of the ideas collected:

Active Quaker uses

- a. Opportunities for worship or meditation both open and focused. Guided meditation.
- b. Day long retreats (i.e. PYM Worship & Care Extended worship)
- c. Regular meeting for worship, (i.e. once a month or for a full month, in the afternoon?)
- d. Quarterly meetings, as part of the rotation around the Quarter
- e. Concerts/recitals by Quaker musicians and/or others
- f. Lectures on Quaker concerns, history, practices or philosophies
- g. Demonstrations of Quaker Practices, for example Meeting for Worship, Weddings, Memorial Services)

Historic destination that could serve as the scene for many kinds of events

- a. Concerts/recitals hosted/sponsored by Quakers or other groups, Individual or series
- b. Historical Lectures or Events
 - i. Join with scheduled events at Hancock House or events scheduled by the Friends of Hancock House. These could range from public tour groups, school tour groups, the ice cream social, or other events.
 - ii. Coordinate with Smick Cabin in Canton and the other historic sites in the area.
 - iii. Other events hosted by Quarterly Meeting
 - iv. Sunday Afternoon Lectures.

c. Demonstrations or Re-enactment Programs

i. Country Thanksgiving/ Harvest celebration / other re-enactments

ii. Carriage show / transportation “as it once was”.

iii. Quaker Practices (in conjunction with local Historical Society events).

d. Meetings and Lectures of Friends of Hancock House or events presented by other groups

e. Activity Based Community Events like Treasure Hunts, Easter Egg Hunts, Scavenger Hunts, astronomy club events, Salem County Arts Group “Day of Art” similar to the Fellowship of Quaker Artists event, “Arts in Bloom” location for artists who don’t have their own studio.

f. Do what other groups don’t do.

We continue to look for ideas. If you have any to share, please e-mail them to culverda@verizon.net.

Submitted by David Culver, Clerk, Salem Quarter Lower Alloways Meeting House Committee

Steering Committee Report

December 13, 2015

The Salem Quarter Steering Committee continues to be a lively and thoughtful group of Friends. The clerk wishes to thank them all for their willingness to engage in the work of the Quarter.

We keep in mind that because the last Tri-Quarter Gathering was cancelled last minute this year due to weather, our 2015-16 contribution of \$1,000 has been returned. We can keep it and use the money elsewhere or return all or part of it to defray some of the expenses used in preparation for the 2015 Gathering. The Tri-Quarter Committee intends to have a financial report for the next quarterly meeting. Therefore, Friends agreed that we should recommend returning to the Tri-Quarter committee up to \$500 of our original pledge, as the need is demonstrated, to cover expenses incurred in preparing for the cancelled event.

We have had several requests for donations:

Bill Carrigan requested some financial assistance for all Mullica Hill Friends School graduating class to take its class trip to Monteverde Friends School in Costa Rica. The cost is about \$2,500 per student. Students fundraise for themselves and the school is committed to providing financial aid, but must fundraise to support that effort. An annual contribution of \$250 - \$500 per year for four years is being sought from the monthly meetings and from the Quarter.

Bob Horvay requested Quarterly Meeting to contribute about \$100 to Katrina McQuail for her to be a crew member for eXXpedition Amazon sailing from Recife, Brazil to Georgetown, Guyana in December. Katrina is a Young Adult Friend & a member of Kitchener Area Monthly Meeting in Ontario, Canadian Yearly Meeting. Friends noted that Ms. McQuail has no connection with the Quarter. Often in this situation, individual Friends are invited to make personal contributions as their conscience dictates.

Seaville representative, Michael Hainesworth, shared a request from Seaville that a donation be considered for Syrian refugee aid. Narenj Tree Foundation is a group which collects and sends forty-foot containers with food, humanitarian and medical aid to families and individuals inside Syria and in different refugee camps. Seaville has pledged \$500 and asks the Quarter to make a matching donation.

On behalf of Friends Village, Mike Ayars stated that they need to replace worn carpet and are asking all the non-profit groups who use the facility free of charge to make a contribution. Salem Quarter uses

the facility in many capacities from Steering Committee meetings to workshops and meetings for worship. Friends on Steering Committee approved that a donation from the Quarter of \$300 would be appropriate.

The funding for each of these contributions is made possible by the combination of unappropriated budget line items (such as child care not needed for already completed Quarterly Meetings) and the Tri-Quarter return of funds.

Future Quarterly Meetings

March 2016 Quarterly Meeting. The program is in place for *Quaker Experiences in the Military*. Our guests include Mike Hainsworth, USN of Seaville; Fred Melroy and George Rubin from Medford Meeting. Colleen Farrell is a fourth possibility.

June 2016 Quarterly Meeting. Seaville. Program possibilities: something from Bayshore Discovery, a program on refugees, or prison ministries. Seaville was asked to consider their preferences.

September 2016 Quarterly Meeting. Mullica Hill. Program possibilities: Lucy Duncan, Associate Secretary at AFSC do some storytelling; white privilege and racism - "What is the appropriate Quaker response?"

December 2016 Quarterly Meeting. Salem Meeting. Program possibilities: Chris Densmore suggested as the speaker. Perhaps the program would serve as a kick off to the proposed series with him sponsored by the Quarter Worship & Ministry Committee.

Each Steering Committee finally includes "Around the Quarter" in which representatives of each Monthly Meeting share what is going on in their Meeting. It is apparent that every Meeting, each in its own manner, is forwarding the work of the Quaker movement in a vital way.

- Paul M. Somers, clerk

Workplace as a Spiritual Classroom *by Kate Coon, Minneapolis Friends Meeting*

In 1975 I had high hopes of starting a career in social work that focused on helping others and building a better world. However, my competition had advanced degrees and ten years of experience. Thinking I couldn't afford graduate school, I broadened my search. I accepted the first job I was offered and became an actuary at an insurance company.

Actuaries construct mathematical models and projections of financial products. While this job wasn't my first choice, I felt good about providing individuals and companies with tools to help them optimize their resources, increase their financial stability, and realize dreams. Soon I saw that my industry also helped build vast amounts of wealth, often for those who were already wealthy. I wondered whether I could live with my role in fueling this part of the military-industrial complex. This was long before I became a Quaker, but I had at least some concept of sowing the seeds of war.

I sought advice from my meditation teacher, a quiet and serene soul from India. How would I know when I found the right profession? His response: "It doesn't matter." I was stunned. He said the universe would offer the lessons I needed regardless of my choices. I was to receive each lesson with joy.

With this jolt in my thinking, work warranted a different kind of scrutiny. I was certainly helping the rich become richer, but I was also helping many of the not-so-rich. In addition, the rich provide paychecks and benefits to the not-so-rich. The better my clients managed their financial lives, the more of their energy and resources could go forward toward worthy pursuits. I decided I could stay if I behaved myself. I vowed to keep my eyes open and look for opportunities to do the right thing, whatever that was. If I did my best to make my corner of the business world more humane, I felt justified in infiltrating a powerful organization or two.

I felt no need to hide my true identity. My appearance matched my self-image: embroidered shirts, corduroy skirts, sensible shoes, and waist-length frizzy hair. At twenty-two I looked like I was twelve. Naturally, a Vice-President of Important Matters rarely took me serious. One day a routine meeting turned shockingly contentious and unruly. Incredulous, I concluded that raving lunatics were masquerading as tasteful business people. I started wearing suits and put my hair in a bun. Not surprisingly, it made my job easier. I felt guilty about the deception until I realized that I was dressing to put others at ease, and

packaging does not change who I am. A harder lesson was that I was not a spy; I fit right in. There is no Us and Them. We are all one.

Another early lesson involved a co-worker I found difficult. A lawyer by training, he needed my mathematical contributions to assemble and package marketing programs. I found his schemes repugnant. He found my counter-proposals equally unacceptable. We clashed at every encounter. I had had enough therapy to know I couldn't change him; I could only change myself

Paying close attention to our next few battles, I noted that he escalated at certain vocabulary of mine, such as "illegal." I vowed to remove negatively loaded terms from my half of our conversations. I tried to focus on facts—what penalties could be levied by which regulatory bodies, whose licenses could be revoked, and how much it could hurt his other sales if certain details were made public. I offered no suggestions or "improvements," and just waited for his expert opinion. He trotted back to his office exclaiming, "We certainly don't want to do that!" I smugly thought I was teaching him how to be a good person, but I was wrong. *He was teaching me how to be a good person.*

I started to watch for these teaching moments. My best clue was my emotions. If I felt anger rising, I knew a lesson was being offered. Fear was also a good clue. I now ask, "What does God wish me to learn?" When I clash with someone, I ask, "What has this person been sent to teach me?" When I don't like someone, I see if the person is a mirror to show me what I don't like about myself. When in doubt, I look for That of God and try to connect with That. I keep an eye out for suffering and consider it a privilege to provide soothing, understanding, or humor.

Even though I do not receive all my lessons with joy, I make it a point to give thanks. Sometimes the best I can do is *Thank you, God, for this opportunity to learn and improve myself. While I may dread this lesson, I know I will benefit and eventually be truly grateful.*

The world is my classroom. I spend half my waking hours in the workplace and can't afford to miss half of my lessons. My job description from elementary school still applies today: *Pay attention in class. Learn as much as you can.*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kate Coon is a member of Minneapolis (MN) Monthly Meeting and often attends Twin Cities Meeting as well. In addition to interactions with others and corporate silence, she connects with the Divine through solitary silence, music, walking, knitting, and (occasionally) mathematics

This article first appeared in **What Canst Thou Say?** February 2007 and is reprinted with permission. (see page 5)

Directions to Woodstown Meeting House

Coming from the south, enter Woodstown on Rt. 40, 45 , or Yorktown Rd., S. Main St. At the traffic light in the center of town, go north on Rt. 45. The meeting house is directly ahead as you approach the first turn after the light.

From the north, enter Woodstown on Rt. 45 from Mullica Hill. After you cross the bridge into town, the meeting house is about a half mile on your right, just before Rt. 45 turns left.

Google: Friends Meeting, 104 N. Main St., Woodstown, NJ

Salem Quarter News is the official publication of **Salem Quarterly Meeting** of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and appears four times a year. Send comments, questions, to Tom Etherington, editor, at etherington.t@gmail.com.

Submissions are best sent in digital form. Pictures are preferred in color and highest size or most pixels. Send contributions to etherington.t@gmail.com. It will help if you start the subject line with SQNews. Mailing address is Tom Etherington, 5775 Irving Ave., Pennsauken, NJ 08109. Questions? Send to the above e-mail or call 609-206-5329. Deadlines for 2016 are Summer Issue April 25 Fall Issue July 25; Winter Issue Oct 24..

Acknowledgements Picture credits: Cover, Tom Etherington; Page 13, Woodstown Mtg. Proofreading; Gloria Horvay, Lois Dinshah

Editorial Advisory Board Tom Etherington, Mullica Hill MM; Becky Shapiro, Salem MM; Cindy Vitto; Mullica Hill MM.

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Salem Quarterly Meeting meets in session for business four times a year and carries on activities at other times. It is made up of the southernmost Quaker congregations in New Jersey. The monthly meetings gather for business once a month and meet in worship every Sunday. Many also provide children's or adult First-day School (religious education). The worship groups schedule their meetings differently. Call the listed numbers or visit the websites for information. The monthly meetings and worship groups making up Salem Quarter are:

Greenwich: Upper Greate Street P.O. Box 18, Greenwich, N.J. 08323
856-451-8217, 15 Sep–15 Jun, Lower Greate Street 15 Jun–15 Sept,
Worship 9-9:45, 9:45-10 After-words and general fellowship, 10:00- no
longer than 11:00, First Day School, children and adults.

Mickleton: 413 Kings Highway, PO Box 231, Mickleton, N.J. 08056 856-423-
3782 mickletonmeeting.org Worship 10:00 am, children's First-day
School 10:15

Mullica Hill: 2 Woodstown Road (Route 45 just south of Route 77), P.O. Box
67, Mullica Hill, N.J. 08062 856- 478-2184 mullicahillfriends.org
Worship 9:30 After-words and general fellowship 10:45, Meeting for
Learning 11:15

Salem: East Broadway at Walnut Street, P.O. Box 7, Salem, N.J. 08079
Worship 10:30; First Day School 9:15 am Sept.-May

Seaville: 3088 South Shore Road (Rte. 9, 1 mile S. of Rte. 50), Ocean View,
N.J. 08230 609-624-1165 seavillequaker.tripod.com
Worship 10:00 am **Beach meetings** (Memorial Day to Labor Day weather
permitting) **In Cape May** Windsor Ave and the water, Cape May, 9:00
am Sundays, **in Ocean City**, 23rd St. and the beach, 8:30 AM Sundays

Southern State Worship Group: Call Roshan Dinshah for info 856-694-3025

Woodbury: 124 North Broad Street, Woodbury, N.J. 08096, 856 -845-5080
http://www.pym.org/pym_mms/woodburynj_salq/.php
www.meetup.com/Woodbury-Friends_Meeting First-day School 10:00
am, worship 11:15 am

Woodstown, 104 North Main St., P.O. Box 13, Woodstown, N.J. 08098,
856-478-4618 <http://www.woodstownfriends.org/> First-day School
9:15 am Worship 10:30 am

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LISTMASTERS

Salem Quarterly Meeting
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends
PO Box 55
Woodstown, NJ 08098-0055
Change Service Requested

Quarterly Meeting
March 13, 2016
Woodstown Meeting House
(Directions p. 22)

9:00 AM - gather, nametags, coffee, etc.

**9:30 - Program, "Quaker Veterans
of Military Service"**

10:30 - Meeting for Worship

11:30 lunch provided by Woodstown Friends

1:00 PM - Meeting for Business

Child care, beverages, and dessert provided.