

Salem Quarter News Spring 2013

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. The great reason why we are often in poverty of spirit, as to religious feeling, is that we do not seek. Our blessed Lord said, 'Seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.'

William Allen

Cover photo by Sandra Boone Murphy.

Quote from Matthew 7:7

<u>Lessons from Newtown</u>

<u>Barry Sloane</u> <u>Clerk of Salem Quarter</u>



The tragedy at Newtown has rekindled the national dialogue on gun control. The media continues to focus on whether guns should be controlled, but this is only a piece of the picture and does not address the underlying problem: as a society, we not only tolerate violence, in some cases, we embrace it.

According to the U.N. the homicide by gun rate for 100,000 populations is 20 times higher in the U.S. than the average for all other developed countries. 12,000 people (more people than the population of Woodbury) are killed by guns in the U.S. each year in contrast to Japan with 11 people killed. In contrast to the U.S., the Japanese tightly control guns to the point of virtually eliminating ownership of anything other than an air gun or shot gun and the restrictions on those are Byzantine. In Switzerland, 23% of the households have guns, compared to 43% in the U.S. The Swiss homicide by gun rate 0.52 homicides per 100,000 population compared to the U.S rate of 3.3. Like the Japanese, the Swiss have tighter gun controls than we do, although not nearly as rigorous.

Based on these facts, one might convincingly argue that gun controls reduce violence. Personally, I believe our gun control system in this country is laughable and that we do a terrible job of keeping the guns away from scary people who are criminal, crazy or untrained in the use of guns. I am also extremely uncomfortable with adding more arms to the mix in the form of armed guards or teachers or general population. But is gun control really the core issue?

The Japanese and the Swiss have better gun controls, but both have cultures that are considerably less violent than ours. If you don't think we embrace violence as a society, consider the following. We proudly get into wars (in some cases, start them) and when we realize there are consequences, we regret it. We glorify violence in our media –from video games to extremely graphic movies. We tolerate bullying in our schools and work places. We encourage our kids to "fight" back. Our politicians are "fighting" for us. We have four military academies and not one academy for peace or diplomacy. We have more military power than the next ten countries combined and sell more weapons than anyone on the planet. Our military is in 125 countries and we have been involved in more than 450 non-covert military actions in the 65 years since WWII not including Korea, Viet Nam, Gulf War One, Iraq or Afghanistan-an average of seven interventions a year! We "fight" crime by incarcerating more people than any other industrialized country and execute people at a rate that competes with Saudi Arabia and China. Gang violence accounts for 20% of the homicides in 88 of our largest cities. We respond to violence by further arming ourselves or paying for more police. Violence has become so pervasive that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has identified it as a "key public health priority". As a country we have the attitude of adolescents on steroids - we know it all and we are prepared to prove it: collectively and individually.

We exacerbate the violence, by ignoring the needs of those who have mental health issues. One can get a preventative screen and long term treatment; all covered by insurance. In contrast, mental health treatment is less likely to be covered and coverage only applies if one is an immediate danger to one's self or others; in other words, our mental health system responds to the need only when there is a crisis; there is little or no mechanism for prevention, monitoring or long term treatment short of incarceration. Newtown illustrates another key problem - identifying people in need and getting them help.

Compound all of this with a trend that has been occurring in our society since the 1950s. We used to have formal rules and there were very clear boundaries universally understood governing our behavior. These rules were so strong that one could leave one's house for a week with the door unlocked with no adverse consequences. The boundaries were clear, in part, I believe, because families had not been as dispersed as they are now and there was a continuity in multiple generations having regular personal interactions with one another that is less evident now. One result is that our children are sometimes left to figure out for themselves what the rules are, with minimal guidance, and when they go to school, the lines are further blurred by those with different value systems. The formality in Japan and Switzerland has not been nearly as eroded as it is here and there might be another correlation there. While I believe that as a society, we are gradually adjusting to this change, is it any wonder that with the mixed messages we have given our children that we are where we are now?

It should be abundantly clear that not only do we need to get at least a better handle on who has guns, but more important a handle on our attitudes, behavior and priorities as a society at large; from the very youngest to the oldest. Our testimony as Quakers demands our attention to this concern. But the problem seems so overwhelming; one wonders what one can do about it.

Thankfully, people are recognizing the problem and taking steps to change our culture. Educators are taking on the task of teaching children, using programs like Inter-Personal Cognitive Problem Solving (ICPS). This program is also called "I Can Problem Solve". In this program, parents and teachers are taught better communication skills and how to deal with interpersonal problems in more creative ways. The City of Boston undertook a major initiative to address gang and youth violence by putting together a comprehensive coordinated plan supported by the schools, the police, health care services, social services, probation, corrections and the community. They have had promising results. There is a growing awareness in the corporate world regarding showing respect for diverse groups, driven in part by legislation and court decisions, requiring fair treatment of minority groups, equal treatment for men and women and acceptance of diversity in our society. There are numerous other initiatives just starting or evolving.

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), is a Quaker initiative that has been showing people how to creatively resolve conflicts for many years. Our program at Quarter Meeting in March is "Exploring Friends' Ways of Responding to Violent Culture" and will be led by a person from AVP. I hope you will attend and perhaps, bring a F(f)riend. Together we can do more.

SALEM FRIENDS'

ANNUAL

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Tickets will be available at March Quarterly Meeting - See Alice Waddington or Bob Simmons

Salem Quarterly Meeting Minutes 12/9/2012

Salem Quarterly Meeting met 12/9/2012 at Salem Monthly Meeting. Out of worship, clerk Barry Sloane (Mickleton) convened the meeting, welcomed Friends and thanked Salem for their hospitality. There was a Friendly presence for business of twenty, representing six of the seven Monthly Meetings in the quarter.

Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting on 9/9/2012 were approved as they appeared in the Salem Quarter News with a clarification regarding worship at Friends School. They gather for worship in the Mullica Hill meetinghouse.

Marsha Gaspar (Woodbury), as clerk of the Tri-Quarter Gathering submitted the clerk's report and presented a report from the registrar on the 2012 Tri-Quarter Gathering. This year's theme was "Tending Our Sacred Gardens." The reports highlighted the attendance statistics, costs, and participant reactions. The rapid rise in costs has led the committee to anticipate asking the Quarters to increase their contributions for next year and encourage increased attendance. The committee also asked for direction in responding to the accidental issuance of a duplicate check from the quarter. (*See report p. 22, ebook extra p. 25a*)

Friends approved applying the duplicate check towards the 2013 Tri-Quarter contribution of \$500 previously approved.

Friends approved forwarding the possible request for additional funds from Tri-Quarter to the Finance committee so that they may be aware of the potential need as they create a preliminary budget based on available funding for our consideration.

Peggy Warner (Mullica Hill) presented a report from the Quarter Nominating committee regarding a vacancy on the Friends Village Board of Trustees. She also reported on the scheduling of programs presenting the gifts story from Faith & Play around the Quarter. *(See p. 16)*

Friends approved Anne Lester (Mickleton) to be named to Friends Village Board to replace George Crispin (Woodbury) who resigned.

The finance committee report was presented by Michael Shapiro (Salem). The finance committee is in the process of preparing the budget for 2013-2014. A preliminary budget has been formulated pending information on the end of the calendar year expenses, Fiduciary income, and with the

inclusion of the two new line item expenditures as approved at last quarterly meeting. We still need to know the monthly meeting covenants for 2013-2014. As long as they are near the amounts for this year we should be on target for a similar budget.

Mike Ayars (Woodstown) reported from Steering Committee as its clerk. We anticipate a program on meditation techniques in March. We are always looking for ideas for future quarterly meeting programs. Steering committee meets next on 12/18. Friends with business for the Steering Committee should speak with their Steering Committee representative or the Steering Committee clerk.

A report was presented by Sandra Boone Murphy (Mickleton), clerk of the Indian Affairs committee highlighting area events and committee activities. Since their last report, members of the committee have been led by the spirit to the following work: Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Indian committee meeting; Prayer Circle Ministry at the Fairton Tribal Grounds; Gloucester County Historical Society hosting of Swarthmore Library (Quaker) Holdings; the reading of Quaker documents to support Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape recognition; shared with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and NL-L Revised Minute of Support for the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape. She thanked the Quarter for supporting the committee's request for funds moving this work forward (*approved 9/2012*).

The committee has also been reviewing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples UNDRIP. Sandra spoke about the proposed minute; the need to know deeply the issues of marginalization and the undertaking of this issue, if we truly feel led. She offered to be available for information and clarification as the quarter and monthly meetings season this issue. (See report p. 12)

Mike Ayars (Woodstown) spoke from Friends Village about the reconfiguration of facilities at Friends Village with regards to the health care and memory loss wings. Friends Village is evolving with the needs of the community.

The Worship & Ministry committee met at the home of Michael & Rebecca Shapiro (Salem) on Friday evening. Out of worship they had a reflective discussion and heard reports from the Gifts Working group. An announcement was made regarding the next gathering of the Quarter prayer group. *(See report p. 11)*

Christine Greenland presented a report from the Gifts Working Group. (See report p. 17)

Mike Ayars reported from the Trustees (Woodstown). The wall has been removed at the Port Elizabeth cemetery.

Alice Waddington (Salem) spoke about Friends School at Mullica

Hill. The solar plant is up and running. They would like to see an increased enrollment. The Head of School Search committee has narrowed the search and hopes to have news soon.

Christine Cameron (Salem) inquired about the possibility of convening a gathering of Social Concerns committees from around the Quarter to share ideas and inspirations. Monthly Meeting clerks will be asked to ascertain if there is interest around the Quarter. Christine Cameron is willing to convene the gathering as needed.

Additional announcements were made and the meeting was closed in worship.

Rebecca Shapiro, recording clerk



Salem Quarter News

Online Edition

The SQ News is now optimized for e-readers. For the past few years, the News has been available from our website at www.salemquarter.net as a web-based publication. With the growing popularity of Tablet Readers like Kindle, Nook, Nexus and iPad, we have decided to make the News available on-line in a form more compatible with the tablet readers as well as with desktop and laptop computers. The result, as you see in the photo above, is our PDF version of the SQ News. Now the on-line viewer sees each page of the News exactly as it appears in the print edition, with the exception that all photos are in color whenever possible, and material that did not fit in the print edition may be available on-line. Each on-line edition will be posted on our website (www.salemquarter.net) about the time the print edition shows up in mailboxes.

¹⁰ The Ancient and Modern Art of Storytelling Friends School Mullica Hill



Friends School Mullica Hill is a busy place this time of year! With our annual Science Fair just around the corner, our Middle School iPad program taking off, our "Charity:Water" service project underway, our MathCounts team heading to Rowan University for a state-wide competition and so much more, it is fantastic to see our Pre-K through Grade 8 students so engaged in the excitement of learning.

To help make our Language Arts curriculum literally come to life, the FSMH Language Arts Committee hosted an Artist-in-Residence this January. Writer, educator and mentor Anndee Hochman met with all of our students in early January to introduce them to the genre of folktales, fairy tales and "just-so" stories. Watching Anndee interact with the students was glorious. Her ability to tell a story with her voice, gestures and facial expressions engaged students of all ages. Anndee then returned later in the month to guide students in grades 4 to 8 in the crafting of their own original tales.

Research tells us that storytelling is an invaluable teaching tool – and not just in Language Arts. Creative science teachers have used storytelling as a means to help students make abstract concepts concrete. Math teachers have taken "word problems" to a whole new level by linking tales to math and geography concepts. And with the tradition of

storytelling originating as a means to share "news" and history within ancient cultures, storytelling is a powerful tool when it comes to teaching (and learning) history and social studies even today.

At Friends School, we delight in helping our students see the value of hands-on learning. We feel privileged that we can bring in dynamic special guests and educators like our artist-in-residence Anndee Hochman. We look forward to seeing how the seeds she planted in our students will bloom in their understanding of and respect for the art of storytelling.

Worship & Ministry Report 12/8/2012

The committee met at the home of Michael & Rebecca Shapiro (Salem) on Friday evening. Eleven Friends were present with four out of the seven meetings represented. Out of worship we heard a brief report on the status of the Gifts Working group who met last week. They are pleased with the direction of their focus with attention to how gifts are used and in the words of John Woolman, "staying low."

We discussed the success of the presentation of the gifts story from Faith & Play to Salem Monthly Meeting. Several members of the Quarter Nominating committee were in attendance at the presentation as suggested. Meetings around the Quarter appear to be embracing the suggestion that they host similar presentations.

As many present were in attendance at Salem, we had a deep and rich discussion about the presentation and the intertwining of committees within meetings and meetings within the Quarter. Each meeting may experience the presentation/interaction of the gifts story differently, but should know of the potential for individual and corporate spiritual growth that may result, especially when reflective listening is utilized in an atmosphere of trust and faith. Sandy Boone Murphy's willingness to let the message flow through her as she presented the story was a contributing factor to the success of the program.

The group continued with thoughts on the measure of Light, the use of gifts and the need to "stay low" and avoid "pridefulness". The importance of letting the Spirit lead rather than trying to lead the Spirit was a theme. We announced the next 5th First Day Prayer group on 12/30 at Cumberland County College from 2 - 4 pm and concluded with worship.

Report of Indian Affairs Committee to Salem Quarterly Meeting December 9, 2012

There is a request embedded in a (proposed) minute by our Yearly Meeting (IC) to move forward to Monthly Meetings; since SQ has an IAC it feels rightly ordered to lift before the Quarter too. PYM has minuted support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Their minute asks "monthly meetings within PYM to likewise show their support by considering a minute of approval, and acting on their support through further study and education."

The UNDRIP concern has been taken up by MMM and lifted up by SQ W&M; this is a good start. The UN work is lengthy and complex. It has come to our attention that there is a need for seasoning - opportunities for worship, listening for our inner teacher, and opening conversations addressing concerns.

While not rushing our guide we've begun to listen to spirit. The work by the UN took over 20 years. It was signed by the UN General Assembly in 2007, endorsed by President Obama in 2010, and over the past few years consideration was lost in transition from PYM to MMs, all the while communities have continued to experience discrimination and marginalization. The decision to draft a minute for review and revision by any one individual has limitations, perhaps suppositions. A blessing of Quaker process is listening for spirit, the still, small voice moving through us. I wonder what we need for our meeting community to move forward? I wonder how we might utilize the gifts bestowed to individuals for the whole meeting community?

Let us broaden our perspectives embraced by love. Let us not repeat the notions embedded in *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship* by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye, nor the recent article in *Friends Journal* by John Coleman titled "When Quaker Process Fails." It is not the process that failed (the injustice of slavery and PYM's financial awareness) it was our complacency. Friends must recognize what is truly important, nurture our gifts and get on with the work, as called. If we are too busy now to care for what is truly important when will we have time? We, the individuals who are concerned with social and economic justice, knowing that there is that of God in each of us, need to become educated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and consider words to express a minute for the UNDRIP in a timely manner, thereby supporting indigenous peoples around the world. I ask, what does thou say Friend? As called, A concerned Friend, Sandra Boone Murphy Member MMM, SQ IAC (clerk,) PYM IC attender

The Religious Society of Friends Salem Quarterly Meeting Twelfth month 2012

(DRAFT) Minute on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Introduction

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) is an international human rights instrument adopted by the UN General Assembly on Sept. 13, 2007 after more than 20 years of negotiations. It was originally approved by 143 countries. As of 2008, only 4 countries had not endorsed it: The United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. It is now endorsed by all, the last occurring on December 16,2010, when President Obama officially endorsed it for the United States.

The UNDRIP affirms the fundamental rights of Indigenous peoples to exist as unique cultural groups. Indigenous peoples have rights to own and control their lands, resources, spiritual practices, languages, and cultural practices, and to self-government. We honor the inalienable rights that sustain the existence of Indigenous peoples.

Minute on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Salem Quarterly Meeting of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, comprises seven Monthly Meetings of the Religious Society of Friends - Woodbury MM, Mickleton MM, Mullica Hill MM, Woodstown MM, Salem MM, Greenwich MM, Seaville MM. Through the work of the Salem Quarter Indian Affairs Committee, the Quarter embraces the rights of Indigenous peoples, such as our friends and neighbors, the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation. This principal is particularly applicable to those yet to be officially recognized by the state and/or federal government, those who seek the affirmation of their identity and heritage. Our legacy of right relations with Indigenous peoples reflects our testimonies of peace and equality, and stresses the reverence for applied justice.

We, the members of Salem Quarterly Meeting, minute our approval of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in securing the fundamental inalienable rights of Indigenous peoples to exist as unique cultural communities by having rights to own land, engage in spiritual and cultural practices, and maintain a selfgovernment. It is our blessing that our indigenous friends are, and will still be, here.

Mr. Prosch bu Michael Hainsworth

Mr. Prosch taught, math, chemistry and physics at my high school. He also was my homeroom teacher. He was a very formal, upright man who had retired from DuPont, as a chemist, but wanted to teach. His wife had died and he had no children. He wanted something positive to do with his life. He had come to this country during the thirties, from Germany. Everyone thought he was a Prussian officer because he stood ramrod straight and walked like he was on a parade ground. In fact, he was from Pomerania and had that posture because he was strapped to a board, as an infant, so his spine would be straight. He had been in the German army, during WW1 and had been gassed on the Western Front.

When Viet Nam started building up, the impression the other boys and I had about the Draft and Military Service started to change. We had thought of "the Service" as a male rite of passage, sort of like the Boy Scouts with guns. You traveled all over the world, had exciting adventures, then you go home, get a job with training under the GI Bill and settle down. We never really thought of being thrown into a kill or be killed situation. Going halfway around the world to kill people who hadn't done anything to us was a wrinkle we had never considered. As far as we knew, Americans only fought wars of self-defense, after being provoked. This was something more complicated. There was more to this than we had realized. We started asking Mr. Prosch what war was really like.

He was not one to challenge authority, speak out of turn or push his opinions on others. He generally avoided the question. Once, he spoke about "parade ground courage" and true courage. He said to beware of parade ground courage, with its brave talk, music, marching and flag waving. That parade ground courage was dangerous but usually cured by the first bullet to find its mark. That uniforms and a badge from a rifle range were useless when you were the target. That it was very difficult to aim a rifle with your head buried in the mud. That you seldom had any idea what was going on, other than people were trying, very hard, to kill you. True courage, he defined, as understanding the consequences of your options and doing what your conscience told you to do. That was as far as he would go.

Then, one morning, we were all excited about something we were planning. The bell rang, we were supposed to go to our seats and be quiet while Mr. Prosch took the roll and made announcements. That day, we had a series of brilliant ideas, one after another and they kept coming after the bell. We did not take our seats, we were all were talking, louder and faster so we would be heard. It was not the scheduled routine, it was chaos and Mr. Prosch knew it was his responsibility to restore order. He stood in the front of the room saving over and over, in his German accent, "Gentlemen, Gentlemen". We were not ignoring him, we all just wanted to say one last thing and twenty five people can't all have the last word. Mr. Prosch became frustrated with our lack of discipline and the contrast with his own upbringing. Finally, he said "Do you know that when I was your age, a seventeen year old corporal could blow a whistle and two hundred of us would, instantly, charge the ..." he stopped. No one said a word. I could hear my heartbeat. We had a glimpse of what we had been asking him about. We looked at each other and imagined what it was like to see your friends shot. After what seemed like an eternity, Mr. Prosch softly said "Gentlemen, your way is better. Finish your business, then we will do our business." We were finished. I don't even remember what was so important that day, but I will never forget that moment with Mr. Prosch.

Notes from Seaville Meeting

Seaville MM is again participating in the Susan Komen Program to encourage women to get their yearly mammograms. If women don't have insurance coverage it will be paid for through the program. Ten women are needed to get a cash award. Last year Seaville met the requirement of 10 women.

Seaville plans to have several intergenerational activities- a movie, pizza and potluck and a barbecue.

Tuning Up Salem Quarter Meeting With Gifts Learning Salem MM Tales a Lead by Peggy Warner

It has been said that the health and vitality of any Quaker body from Monthly Meeting up to Yearly is directly related to the effectiveness of the work of our Nominating Committees. That's a pretty heavy wrap to put upon us, but there is some truth in the statement. Salem Quarter Worship and Ministry and Nominating Committees encourage SQM groups to listen with our hearts anew for gifts freely given us from the Inward Light.

On November 25 at Salem MM Sandra Boone Murphy led the Faith & Play Lesson on Gifts to the meeting community gathered. In it's worshipful setting, the lesson began as a story. A few examples were told as part of the lesson. The examples were surrounded by many wondering questions and reflections both from teacher and participants- all valued. The whole span of the meeting service territory emerged: What's the difference between gift, skill, talent? Encouragement is needed. There's a time to step up and a time to change and to step back. What about saying "yes" to too much. How do we know? It's a positive to have a nice mix of ages on our committees, including the young and older. When we lose a member we wonder how we will ever manage to reproduce just what they did; but we find that there will be shifts in the way things are done according to the new person's gifts. . . and it is good. Quality sharing took place for a long time in Salem. One Salem member expressed that a "jelling came among us; we were listening closely to one another; we were all intertwined" in that experience.

The mutual seeing and naming of member gifts is basic to member/ attender personal spiritual growth and service to the Meeting; that service could likely lead into Meeting service in the larger world. Have we taken pause recently to WAIT before the Inward Light that can show us these gifts personally and of others in our meeting? Think what a difference it could make to the nominating process if the entire meeting community engaged in such a process periodically. Individuals and the community grow at the same time. Focused worship of our gifts is uplifting. We all get to know one another a little better. Nominating committee members get to know the people better. Members/attenders may discover new gifts and feel prompted to share the discovery with a Nominating Committee member or other meeting community members.

Please speak up in your meeting to find a time when your monthly

meeting might schedule the Faith & Play Gifts lesson at your Monthly Meeting. It needs the space of an hour and half. It can be a FDS lesson, a worshipful Fireside, a Quaker eights after dinner focus or just create your own MM occasion. SQM Nominating and Worship and Ministry Committees recommends it! You can contact Peggy Warner, Becky Shapiro or Sandra Boone Murphy for further information. E-mails and phone numbers can be found in the Summer, 2012 SQM News.

Gifts Working Group Report 12-9-2012 by Christine Greenland

As Becky reported last Quarter, the Gifts Working Group is/has been in transition. Friends recognized the importance of identifying gifts, including more subtle gifts of care, deep listening, and quiet service, as well as more obvious gifts. We each have different gifts, and if we are attentive, such gifts can work in harmony for the good of our communities. What bubbled up in worship and ministry in 9th month, 2012 was the potential of using the section on Gifts in the *Faith and Play* curriculum, which can be adapted for all ages and stages. Salem Meeting and a few other Friends, led by Sandy Boone, explored the potential last month, and found their experience rewarding. The opportunities for exploration, for getting to know one another better excited those Friends who participated. Friends felt it important to get to know one another better.

Because we wanted to see what would happen, we deferred meeting until after Salem Meeting's session on Gifts. We are persuaded that way is opening, and that we seem to be on the right path. Although our time together was somewhat short, we felt Friends might be encouraged to explore how to live into their own measure of the Light and Life. Gifts are not our possession, but our experience of mystery that leads us to a way of expression we might not fully expect. We may not know that the potential is there!

There are many possible settings in which we come to know each other better, not just for what we do, but who we are, inwardly. Gifts are often observed and acknowledged at first within the immediate circle of an individual's family and close friends, then in the larger circles. An important function of any meeting community is to call forth and encourage such gifts, and their use for the benefit of the whole.

Language for the Inner Landscape by Mary Waddington

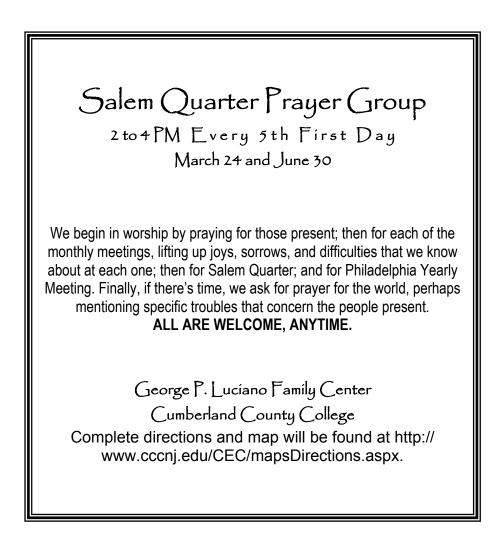
Four of us from Salem Quarter set off for Ohio back in November on what felt to me like a Four Musketeers-type adventure but with volleys of musings rather than tennis balls. I thought I might be ready for this. Long-term steroid treatment had taken its toll on my brain and body but had left the rest of me relatively intact. It had opened and deepened me, making me more tender and receptive. I was eager to jump back in, to test the waters, to experience again one of the many wonders our wider Quaker community has to offer. Ohio Yearly Meeting's retreat on "Language for the Inner Landscape" was calling to me.

Over this remarkable weekend on a campus cradled in the hills and in a group of cradling arms, I was moved again and again not only by the content of the retreat but by the wisdom, articulation and humility of Brian Drayton's leadership. Equally moving was the sharing that flowed so generously, and often courageously, from its participants. At night I would lie in my guest house bed and be in awe of the stimulation I had received and how it was settling into the archives of my being.

Those gathered allowed themselves to be vulnerable, and as I looked through the transparency that trust creates I saw great beauty. It seemed that by striving to live their faith as a daily practice, Quakerism had become either their vocation, avocation or serious commitment. In any case, their embrace of Quakerism and their steadfast desire to be obedient to the ways of living it appeared to take high priority. For those who see value in the phrase "walk your talk," I'm realizing such Friends must first understand what their walk is, then be willing and able to describe it accurately to themselves and others, and finally to implement it honestly and selflessly. Perhaps as with infants, even before learning the basics of walking and talking, we must learn to pattern into ourselves the thoughts and motions that prepare us for the steps to come.

Among the many early Quaker terms we explored and defined, what struck me as the most urgent for me to share "back home," and perhaps the most difficult, is that of "the condition of the meeting." How do I relate to my monthly meeting the importance of discerning it's spiritual health? How can we as a faith community learn how to grow our meeting as we grow ourselves as individuals? Perhaps the degree of commitment to growth and its ensuing results depend on our understanding of what Quakerism is truly about and whether we are in alignment with it and willing to take it on as a way of life. Individual and corporate spirit-led seeking can bring into the Light accurate assessments of the health of our meeting. Obedience and devotion to what we learn from this and how well we follow Guidance in its implementation can then lead to renewal and positive growth.

Borrowing from the bumper sticker "World peace begins with me," I am fully aware that attention to "the condition of the meeting" is an individual responsibility. But the Inner Landscape is tended by the meeting community. Experiences like the Ohio Yearly Meeting retreat inspire and edify me. They equip me to go forth with a greater courage and a stronger grip on my intention to walk in the Light.



<u>Quaker</u>

tender two, child of God; traveling, safely embraced; wandering: asking, seeking, having that of God within; expectant waiting: knocking, opening; entering the loving community.

Friendly tribulation; turned out to fetch the broom; bring more....

pray to love and be loved; pray, clicking three times, heart, mind and soul bathe in light;

exploring... more love, more legacy, more process, more SPICES, more work.

Quaker, there be no more.

sbm 25th day 1st month 2013 - post PYM W&M Thread Gathering

A String of Lights by George Crispin

When I first moved into the rural community of Harrisonville, NJ, one of the first, of many, delights I experienced was that just after the last reverberations of Thanksgiving had sunk into our memories, Christmas lights appeared in our one-street town. Without notice or fanfare they just appeared. There they were, to be seen by me driving to the post office, that watering hole where the town news is collected and shared. Upon inquiry I was told that on the last Saturday in November members of the local service club, the Ruritans, gather and string the lights. Over the year they are stored in the fire hall. They are hauled out, checked for burnt out bulbs, and then a local farmer donates his lift and they are strung, all on a Saturday morning. Such an operation would stop traffic, if we had any traffic. We have little automotive converse, thus the lift dominates the street and the lights are strung.

From then until into the New Year, the lights can be seen at night for miles around. Red, green, blue, white, they shine into the darkness, a clarion of Christmas. Perhaps it is my Christmas spirit imagination at work, but people smile more, say "hello" to those they do not know, have a spring in their step, laugh at moderately funny wise cracks, and share more stories. Whatever one may call it, I see it as the Christmas spirit in the air. It is brought on by local farmers, truck drivers, insurance salesmen, hardware store owners, all who give of their time and labor on a Saturday morning to bring the Christmas spirit in the form of light to our small community. Some of the older, retired members stand to the side, give advice from former years, and nod approvingly.

Occasions like this are seldom only what they seem. Indeed, they can be seen on a higher level. Each light can be understood as one individual shedding his light outward beyond the borders of his own life. One light, or even just a few, on a string would still leave the community in darkness. But many lights illuminate the whole community. The Post Mistress is a light when she smiles and helps us with our mail. The local farmer is a light when he advises me when to plant my rye. The elementary school teacher is a light as he or she guides our young students in their learning. The ambulance driver is a light as he awaits a call to transport someone to the hospital. The firemen and policemen are lights as they guard us against danger. A mother is a light as she cares for her home and the family in it. This list goes on

Thus it is that this Christmas I am aware, perhaps, more than usual, of the string of lights that announce the coming of Christmas. But I am also keenly aware of the light that shines from each person, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year.

Report from Tri-Quarter Gathering December 9, 2012

As per the Registrar's Report, attendance at the Tri-Quarter was significantly down this year. This, coupled with the increases in costs and scholarships, has brought our proceeds short by approximately \$1,500 this year.

This brings me to an issue: two checks for \$500 each were sent as a banking glitch from Salem Quarter to Cindy. If Friends at this meeting choose to designate the second \$500 check for 2013, then our proceeds are short by approximately \$2,000. Fortunately, we have increased our "cushion" over the last two years for this very purpose: to cover short-falls. I am sorry that I do not have exact numbers as of yet (due to pending transactions), but my sense is that our cushion is down by about \$1,500 with Salem Quarter's second check. It is to be noted, however, that we are not as low as we were three years ago.

I will have final numbers to the Quarter at the March 2013 meeting in the form of a Treasurer's Report. I believe at the meeting in September, I mentioned that Joe Tingle had resigned from the Planning Committee and, hence, as Treasurer. I am happy to report that his replacement is the very capable Denise Pooley, who is the Chief Financial Officer at SODAT, and also Treasurer at Woodbury Friends.

To complete the 2012 Treasurer's Report, I will need to know if Salem Quarter's second check is for 2012 or 2013. I, personally, understand that the Salem Quarter cannot be extravagant, and I will be at peace with whatever the Quarter decides.

Meanwhile, the 2013 Planning Committee has placed as our top priority the project of increasing attendance next year. Several ideas are already on the table that will eventually be translated into action. We are also looking for ways to decrease costs, such as having Camp Ockanickon help us find a compatible group with whom we could share the weekend. If in this meeting there are those of you who know of a group that might wish to have a cluster of 8 cabins to themselves - or a lodge - please take one of my cards and either call or e-mail me the information. And for those of you who have not yet experienced this special weekend in the woods, please consider bringing our numbers up with your presence in 2013.

Marsha Gaspar

Clerk, Tri-Quarter Gathering of Friends

(*A* more detailed report about the Tri-Quarter Gathering can be found in the on-line edition on p. 25a)



Douglas Gwyn visits Mullica Hill Mtg

In November, Mullica Hill Meeting hosted Douglas Gwyn, who is currently teaching at Pendle Hill. Doug has written several books on early Friends and how their understanding of the Bible set them apart from the other religions of their day and ours. Nineteen people attended the workshop, including Friends from Birmingham, Mount Holly, and Chestnut Hill meetings.

Doug;s latest book, *Conversation with Christ*, is about the Quaker understanding of the Gospel of John, often referred to as the Quaker Gospel because of its emphasis on the universality of the Light. The group read the story of he Samaritan woman at the well, looked at the personal dynamics of the story, the changed understandings that both the woman and Jesus took away with them, and how the theme was used by early Friends.

For example, in the story, Jesus told the woman at the well that God was a spirit and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. In one of her tracts, Margaret Fell said, "God being an invisible Spirit, hath placed his worship in the Spirit, and is removed from all visible things and all visible worships and offerings, and sacraments and temples ... And so men and People upon the face of the Earth ought to know the true and living God who is a spirit, and whose worship and fear is in the Spirit and in the truth in the inward parts."

It ended with a guided meditation as Friends considered their own understandings of the truths contained in the story. Join us at Quarterly Meeting March 10 at Woodstown Meeting House

We will have a person from the Alternatives to Violence program leading us in "Exploring Friends' Ways of Responding to a Violent Culture"

The morning's program will begin at 9:30. We will join Woodstown in worship at 10:30. Woodstown Friends will supply homemade soup, bread, and beverages at noon. Business meeting will start at 1:00 PM. Salem Quarter Calendar ()

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- March 31 Salem Quarter Prayer Group, 2 to 4 PM at the Luciano Family Center, Cumberland County College
- May 3 Friday—Friends School Mullica Hill Spring Auction 6:00 pm
- May 4 Salem Pot Pie Supper Seatings at 4,5,6, and 7,PM See display ad on page 6 for ticket information
- May 8 Wednesday Friends School Mullica Hill Spring Concert (PK-2nd grade) 7:00 pm
- May 9th Thursday Friends School Mullica Hill Spring Concert (3rd-8th grades) 7:00 pm
- The Woodstown Strawberry Supper will be held on Saturday, May 18.
- June 9 Sunday Salem Quarterly Meeting at Seaville
- June 11 Tuesday Friends School Mullica Hill 8th Grade Graduation 7:00 pm
- June 30 Salem Quarter Prayer Group, 2 to 4 PM at the Luciano Family Center, Cumberland County College

The Salem Quarter Calendar is available on the Salem Quarter website at www.salemquarter.net. Ask your Steering Committee member to post your meeting's activities on the calendar.

Registrar's Report on the Tri-Quarter Gathering 2012 Presented at Salem Quarterly Meeting, Dec. 9, 2012

Overall Tri-Quarter Gathering 2012 was one of quality, not quantity, and it was unique in many different ways.

Role of Registrar As Registrar, I describe my primary task as serving the people by contributing to the creation of the program, disseminating Registrar packets, reaching out to Friends to invite them to participate in the unique weekend, and facilitating participant attendance. My secondary responsibility, which is important but much less intense and requires less effort, is to collect all registration fees and receipts from program leaders to present to the Treasurer. Then, after the weekend, it is also my responsibility to analyze the attendance and program, and report my conclusions to the Planning Committee and participating Quarters.

Content of Report As a professor, I wrote many factually based professional reports; however, as Registrar of Tri-Quarter Gathering, I would be greatly remiss if I presented "just the facts," because, just as Dorothy says in the Wizard of Oz, "There's no place like home," many Friends would attest that "There is just no place like Tri-Quarter Gathering." Indeed, I have never experienced anything so beautiful in spirit as these Quaker family weekend retreats, which is exactly the answer I give to the question, "Why do you serve as Registrar year after year?" Therefore, in this report, I will present factual information (some points are negative) and convey people experiences (all are positive)!

Focus of Gathering Inspiring Setting. Once again, Friends gathered to enjoy Tri-Quarter at the beautiful and inspiring natural setting of Camp Ockanickon in Medford, N.J.

Inspiring Theme. This year's positive theme, 'Tending our Sacred Gardens," was viewed by many Friends as "one of the best ever." One Friend observed: "Everyone, even the youngest attenders, understood and felt the loving theme throughout the weekend, with the three vital components of caring for our sacred gardens of family, Earth, and Spirit."

Inspiring program. Without elaborating here, to present the focus of the Gathering, as Registrar, I refer Friends to three pieces of factual information: (1) the Registration Packet (with its eloquent descriptive words and inspiring art provided by Marsha Gaspar), (2) Quotes from Participants [attached], and (3) Children's Scrapbooks.

Participation of Friends. Overall. This year, unfortunately, our total participant attendance number was the lowest since I have served as Registrar (for the past ten years), no doubt due to the overall national economic crisis. Counting every person who stepped foot onto the campgrounds, our total was 80 people; furthermore, the number of full time, weekend participants was just 59 Friends (74%).

First Time Attenders. Yet, some good news with regard to participants: As some older, regular attending Friends no longer participate, many new Friends

and families are making Tri-Quarter an annual tradition! Indeed, there were 15 first time attenders, all of whom were young adults and/ or youth accompanying their parents, with one adult making a two hour trip each way (from Pennsylvania) to participate! And further good news: All of these Friends expressed their eagerness to attend Tri-Quarter again next year (and reserved the date on their calendars for the October weekend).

Quarter Participation. This year there was nearly an even split between the three sponsoring Quarters, with the remaining Friends from other Quarters:

Burlington Quarter -- 25%; Haddonfield Quarter -- 31%, Salem Quarter -- 33%, Other Quarters -- 11%

Monthly Meeting participation. There were a total of 14 different Monthly Meetings

(MMs) represented at Tri-Quarter this year, of which, 9 of these were from our hosting three Quarters: Burlington Quarter -- Mt.Holly; Haddonfield Quarter -- Atlantic City Area, Haddonfield, Moorestown, Newton; Salem Quarter--Mickleton. Mullica Hill, Seaville, Woodbury

Ages of-Participants. The age range for Tri-Quarter participants this year was typical, with our usual impressive chronological age spread: 2 to 80+ years old. In addition, the composition of attenders by age was similar to past years, with adults (over 18) comprising 65%, and the remaining 35% split between the teens and children. However, it is notable that the average age of the adults was younger, with 10 Friends between 18 and 30 years old.

Program/ Workshop Leaders. As is customary with Tri-Quarter, most of the program and workshop leaders were Friends from within our three host Quarters. However, this year we invited several individuals who were not Quakers, but "kindred spirits," to lead, or serve as a Co-Leader or Program Assistant, which provided new energy and expertise as well as served as Quaker outreach.

Scholarship. Not surprising with the overall tight economy, many more Friends than in previous years required significant scholarship assistance in order to participate in Tri-Quarter this year.

Evaluation Feedback. A simple statement encapsulates the essence of the evaluation feedback from participants across age groups: "Tri-Quarter was awesome again this year so please repeat the magic formula next year!" A representative sampling of comments is attached to this report.

Financial Status Overall. Acknowledging that Tri-Quarter funds are not clearly demarked from one year to the next as yet (although this is a goal of the Committee and its new Treasurer), the bottom line is that our income was less this year while our expenses increased; thus, unfortunately, it was necessary for Tri-Quarter to utilize some reserve funds in order to cover the entire cost of producing the Gathering.

New Camp Contract. This year, Camp Ockanickon, established a new contract format, with different parameters, such that Tri-Quarter was required to commit to paying the full person fee for slightly fewer attenders, but there no longer was the option for exclusive use of the camp. This did result in a cost savings of about \$600 and the extra groups were maintained away from us so they did not disturb our program.

Quarter Support. As in the past, the financial support from the three host Quar-

ters enabled minimal increases in fee charges, supported all aspects of the program, and provided financial support to families and Friends. However, with our expenses increasing faster than our income, as Registrar, I request all Quarters to increase their financial support for 'Tri-Quarter 2013.

Monthly Meeting Support. This year two Monthly Meetings (MMs) provided scholarships to assist Friends to participate in Tri-Quarter. It is hoped that next year more MMs furnish financial assistance to their members and attenders to enable more Friends to benefit from this unique, family friendly, spiritual retreat.

Donations of Friends. Consistent with previous years, several Friends donated funds to support scholarships and one donation of \$150 was given to support the cost of materials for the Children's Program. Any Friend who is led and able to do so is strongly encouraged to make a personal donation to support Tri-Quarter. Interested Friends may contact me or any member of the Planning Committee. Please note that checks (payable to Tri-Quarter Gathering of Friends) are preferred over cash donations, but all contributions will be greatly appreciated.

No Friends Institute Scholarships. Unfortunately, due to the recent changes in Friends Institute, no scholarships were provided again this year to support Friends in the 18 - 40 age group. This policy change has severely limited our scholarship assistance and lowered our attendance since many Friends in this age range do not have funds to cover the Tri-Quarter fee because they are in school, not or underemployed, and/ or have young families.

Increased Costs. Consistent with the economy, from year to year, there is an upward trend concerning the total cost of producing Tri-Quarter. Specifically, expenses were higher this past year, including camp charges, and printing and mailing (date cards and registration packets), as well as program and registrar materials and supplies.

Less Fees Collected. Unfortunately, with this year's fewer number of Friends attending Tri-Quarter, less money was collected in registration fees. It is important to note that the overall amount of money generated by fees is affected by several factors, including the number of: First Time Attender Credits, Early Bird Rates, Honorariums for workshop and program leaders, subsidies for children, and part-time attenders.

Financial Status. Since it was necessary to use some of reserve funds to cover the total cost of Tri-Quarter this year, our financial status has been weakened; therefore, it is imperative to increase both attendance and financial support for Tri-Quarter 2013, in order to ensure the continuation of this wonderful annual Quaker Gathering.

Tri-Quarter Gathering 2013

The Tri-Quarter 2013 Planning Committee will be meeting soon and it is expected that a contract will be signed with the Camp for Tri-Quarter to hold its unique gathering the weekend of Oct 4-6. Then, it is hoped that Friends in all three Quarters will assist in facilitating a significant increase in attendance

25-с

and financial support this next year to enable more Friends and generations of children the opportunity to create cherished memories of the special Tri-Quarter weekend at Camp Ockanickon.

Friends are encouraged to read the sampling of comments attached to this report which validate the conclusion that Friends need to continue the Tri-Quarter event.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Cox Crispin Tri-Quarter Registrar

Comments Shared by Friends

Tri-Q was out of this world; literally – I got an experience of a lifetime at the observatory -- to gaze right at our essential radiant sun and see four sunspots! Then I clearly saw another galaxy zillions of miles away.

It's so wonderful how all the people at Tri-Q are so positive, full of life and caring-truly one big loving family-such a natural spontaneous and caring community. You really get a little piece of heaven for a weekend to energize your spirit throughout the year.

I love how every year at Tri-Q you get to laugh and sing and dance, create art and do the challenge course and huddle together on the hay ride, and do yoga with friends of all ages; yet, you have such profound personal moments of serenity, canoeing around the lake, gazing at the stars, reading a new book by the fire, and in Meeting by the lake on Sunday. There is just "no place like Tri-Q!"

This weekend has been amazing- I've never seen my daughter laugh and mingle so much with others with such confidence! I got tears in my eyes when she spoke on the microphone and when she so independently sat down to eat at a different table with her new little best friends! And it was so sweet how the two teenage boys let all the young kids chase and tackle them with a group hug.

I was so inspired seeing the eighty-something J. successfully do the high challenge course and even the active circle dancing with his daughters and grandkids and everyone of all different ages! Every year I especially love watching the teens help the little kids do their tie dying T-shirts and make their s'mores and hold their hands as walking and dancing partners!

The theme was inspiring and all the activities were fun, especially the arts and crafts with the kids. In fact, I very much loved everything about Tri-Q- so much so that I'm definitely coming back for my second year.

I very much resonated with the theme. All of Tri-Q is so memorably enjoyable! And there is a feeling of tradition that is special. This year our children connected with other children more than ever.

It really touched my heart when all of us adults assisted the teens and children to plant the Redbud sapling, with all of its paper cut out pink and green hearts of love for the world. The activity perfectly symbolized the theme and culminated the weekend while reflecting the permanent life connection between all of us and Mother Earth.

Directions to Woodstown Meeting House

Coming from the south, enter Woodstown on Rt. 40/45 from Salem, or Yorketown 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. Please address all comments and questions to Tom Etherington, editor.

Electronic files are appreciated by the editor, including e-mail, and/or.doc, .txt, .rtf, and .odt files sent as attachments. PDF files are discouraged. Paper copy is OK. A printed page in SQ News consists of 39 lines of about 490 words, plus the header.

Photographs and drawings are also preferred in electronic format. The larger the file size, the better. (I.e. more pixels are better, set picture size to large when possible.) Although most will appear in black and white in SQNews, please submit photos in color. **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. Deadline for the Summer edition will be April 19.

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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, Mickleton, N.J. 08056 856-223-5111 www.pym.org/salem-qm/mickleton www.meetup.com/ mickletonmeeting/ 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 Sunday School 9:45 am, worship 11:00 am Sep–May; worship 10:00 am Jun–Aug
- 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 meeting (weather permitting) Grant Street beach, Cape May, May–Oct, 9:00 am

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

- Woodbury: 124 North Broad Street, Woodbury, N.J. 08096, 856 -845-5080 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, 856-769-9839 http://www.woodstownfriends.org/ First-day School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am

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Quarterly Meeting March 10, 2013 Woodstown Meeting House (Directions p. 26) 9:00 Gather 9:30 Program 10:30 Worship Noon Lunch (soup and bread provided by Woodstown MM) 1:00 Business Meeting

Child Care Provided