

Salem Quarter News

Winter 2015



*Let us consider one another
in order to stir up love
and good works,
not forsaking the assembling
of ourselves together.*

For the Lord requireth of his people not only to worship him apart, but to meet together to worship him, in the seasons, and according to the drawings, of his Spirit: and they that are taught of him, dare not forsake the assembling of themselves together, as the manner of some is; but watch against the temptations and snares, which the enemy lays to deceive them therefrom, and to disturb their sense by, that they might not feel the drawings of the Father thereunto.

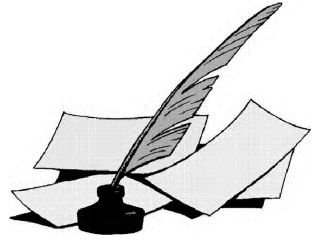
On the Cover:

Photo: Annual Community Thanksgiving Service at
Mullica Hill, Tom Etherington

Quote: Heb 10:24-25 NKJV

Sounds Like Quakerism

Barry Sloane



Recently, I sat on a clearness committee for a new member. Welcome to Mickelton Friends Arley and Stacey Johnson!

During the conversation one Friend noted that there are Quakers who are atheists. We all know that there is a range of beliefs within Friends from evangelical Christian to Universalist. That said, I've been a Quaker for a long time and never really thought about the possibility of *atheists* being Quakers. After all, we are a religion and that word may suggest that to be a member, one must at least believe in some form of God. We may call God the "Light", but one might think that God should figure in on a definition of Quakerism.

In doing a little research, it turns out that there is a whole group of Quakers who refer to themselves as "non-theists". So what exactly is a non-theist? The Oxford English Dictionary defines a non-theist as "Not having or involving a belief in a god or gods." On the other hand, the definition of "theist is: "Belief in the existence of a god or gods, specifically of a creator who intervenes in the universe..."

Thomas Aquinas brought up the concept of *deus absconditus* or "idle god": a creator god who largely retires from the world. Essentially, this belief says, God put us here, but we are on our own and God doesn't intervene in the workings of the universe; the universe operates on its own. So the concept of non-theism is not unheard of even in main stream Christianity.

Pema Chodron uses the terms "theism" and "non-theism" in the context of Buddhism: "*The difference between theism and non-theism is not whether one does or does not believe in God. Theism is a deep-seated conviction that there's some hand to hold. Non-theism is relaxing with the ambiguity and uncertainty of the present moment without reaching for anything to protect ourselves. Non-theism is finally realizing there is no babysitter you can count on.*" That's be-

ginning to sound a lot like Quakerism.

So that word “Religious”, in our name “Religious Society of Friends” still might suggest a God somewhere in the mix until one considers that religion also means a practice, as in religiously going to the gym, and not necessarily a belief.

I was mulling this over in meeting for worship this morning and a few names came to mind: Hildegard von Bingen (Catholic), Lucretia Mott (Quaker), Mahatma *Gandhi* (Hindu), *Princess Mandarava* (Buddhist), *Carl Sagan* (Atheist), *Lao Zi* (Toaist) and Shiridi Sai Baba (Sufi Muslim). Each of these people have different backgrounds and religious beliefs, but they are indistinguishable in their fundamental feelings and personal conduct. They shared living in the love of self, others, the planet and beyond and that love dwelled in them. It’s not so much about what one believes as how open we are to God’s love (or if you are a non-theist, Love) and how we act on our leanings.

Personally, I lean toward the theist camp. I don’t believe in a parent-like God, but I do believe in Divine intervention. There have numerous points in my life where it seemed I was being guided toward a totally unexpected outcome. I cannot explain it, but I feel it. Hmm...That sounds a lot like Quakerism too.

May you and your family have a joyous Christmas-Holiday season and a blessed New Year!

The Red Button

By Michael Hainsworth

There was a red button, about one inch in diameter; it was a pretty average looking button. In fact, it looked like a million other red buttons that worked conveyor belts, overhead doors, amusement rides and countless other electric motors. Unlike most other buttons, this button had no label on it, nothing to indicate what it did. It had nothing; no start, stop, on, off, manual, automatic, nothing. Nor was there any indication what it operated; that was by design. Everyone, who needed to know, knew exactly what it did. If you did not need to know it was better that you did not know. It was the “Command Enable” button the Captain would push, to allow sixteen Poseidon missiles to fire. If he ever pushed that button “in anger,” millions of people would be dead in a matter of minutes. That button was the last link in a string of security measures to prevent unauthorized firings. I was afraid of that button. I was afraid that it might malfunction and enable when it should not. I was also afraid we would have to use it one day.

The Navy had designed a double lock out system that required two keys, one carried by the Captain and one by the Exec, to activate the button. Without those keys, the button was supposed to be isolated, unable to enable. I was sure that the system they used was redundant and reliable. I was also sure that things can malfunction. There was no way to be absolutely certain if that button would really, actually do what it was supposed to do if and when the time came. We never pushed it. We never knew for sure.

We talked about it. One thing about the Bobby Lee was that we constantly talked about the “what ifs”. We had to be sure that the system would fire under the proper circumstances but we did not want it to fire under any other circumstances. We constantly drilled segments of the process so we could leave multiple safety systems on while testing other segments of the process. We rearranged them in various combinations to check that the safeties were working, on and off, reliably. The system

was extremely reliable. We were constantly trying to find flaws and make it even more reliable. I was afraid that with all the tests and drills one day something would go wrong. I suppose for that reason, while conducting a drill, we always kept the missile tube hatches locked shut. That way the missile might fire but it would never leave the boat. We didn't talk about that.

What has all of that got to do with here and now? The Bobby Lee has been cut up and her reactor buried in the desert out in Washington State for over twenty years now. The US Navy no longer "targets" the "Soviet Bloc". We've concluded treaties to reduce the numbers of nuclear weapons but the number of countries with them has grown. As smaller, poorer countries get these weapons, I wonder if they have the resources to design and implement foolproof security systems for them. While the number of bombs has gone down the chances of a nuclear exchange probably have not.

The problem, as I see it, is not so much the number of bombs but the motivation to use them that is the problem. So long as countries feel the need to acquire or retain nuclear weapons, we all run the risk of something going wrong with one of those buttons one day. The only way out of this dilemma, that I can see, is not easy. We must find better ways to resolve our disputes. Rather than bullying our rivals into submission, might we try dialogue and mutual respect? It might not work. It certainly would take years. Considering the alternative, I think the choice is clear.

Salem Quarterly Meeting Minutes

9/13/2015

Salem Quarterly Meeting met 9/13/2015 at Salem Meetinghouse. Out of worship, assistant clerk Tom Etherington (Mullica Hill) convened the meeting, welcomed Friends and visitors, and expressed our gratitude to Salem Friends for their hospitality. There was a Friendly presence for business of eleven representing five of the seven monthly meetings in the quarter.

Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting on 6/14/2015 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 a report from Jared Valdez on the utilization of his consulting services. (See report p. 11)

David Culver (Salem) reported from the Lower Alloways Creek committee highlighting the maintenance activities, short and long term conservation plans and planned events. Two such events are the utilization of the location by the Salem Quarter Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts on 10/10, "Encountering the Quaker Muse," and a tour and brainstorming session for the LAC meetinghouse on 10/25. (See report p. 19)

"Encountering the Quaker Muse" will be an opportunity for active participation of art creation as well as for spectators to view the day's creations inspired by the site. Paul Somers (Greenwich) described the schedule and hopes for the event.

The Quarter Nominating Committee will be meeting next month, 10/17.

Marsha Gaspar (Woodbury), clerk of the Tri-Quarter Gathering submitted a report stating that all promotional efforts have been made. Registrations have begun, but no hard numbers are available. The event will take place October 2, 3 & 4, 2015 with the theme "Heal Thy Living." She invited Friends to please take registration forms for detailed information about the upcoming Gathering ...and consider attending. A report on the event will follow at the Salem Quarterly meeting in December. Dietrich Preston (Woodbury) was available to provide additional infor-

mation.

The Finance Committee report was submitted by Michael Shapiro (Salem). All bills presented have been paid and all covenant payments due have been received. Education Funds awards have been received by all applicants.

On behalf of Suzanne Culver, FV board member, David Culver (Salem) noted that Friends Village has a new CEO, Dan Murray replacing Tom Lyons. The most recent state inspection yielded the highest ever score. Friends Village will be having an anniversary celebration on 9/17 marking ten years since they became Friends Village and honoring visionaries, Betty & Frank Crane, Carlton Gardiner and Alice Waddington.

The Worship & Ministry Committee met at the home of Michael & Rebecca Shapiro (Salem) on Friday evening 9/11/2015. Out of worship the group heard from the Gifts Working Group and discussed at length the Fifth Sunday Worship & Prayer Group. Ideas for future workshop or lecture series were considered. (See report p. 20)

Friends School Mullica Hill shared a change in their schedule. The weekly school meeting for worship will now be on Friday mornings at 9:00 am. As always Quarter Friends are welcome and encouraged to drop in and worship with the students.

Friends noted with amusement that this meeting for business had a most jovial tone, possibly a contributing factor to its brevity and productivity. Meeting was closed in worship.

Rebecca Shapiro, recording clerk

Clasping Hands

George A. Crispin
Woodbury Friends Meeting

This past June the Salem Quarterly Meeting was held at Woodbury Friends Meeting. Normally the SQM rotates, but for several years it has not been held in Woodbury. It would be ignoring an important truth not to state that relations between SQM and WFM over the last decade have been less than ideal.

But Woodbury was asked to be the host in June of 2015 and the Meeting agreed. One reason they agreed was that in June of 1715 the meetinghouse was completed, and, thus, June 2015 is the 300th anniversary of the meetinghouse. To host the Quarter seemed very appropriate.

As significant as that was, it was not the only, or most important, reason why Woodbury Meeting agreed to host the Quarter. The more important reason was that it presented the opportunity for clasping hands. Shaking hands is very significant to Friends. It is how they end worship. One does not enter a Meeting for Worship without many shaking of hands. It is generally what Friends do when they meet. It indicates love and unity. Having SQM at WFM provided the opportunity to put a new face on the relations between the two groups. It also represented the necessity of a great deal of work in preparation. Four Meeting members spent four days working on the grounds planting flowers, mowing the lawn, raking debris, weeding flowerbeds, cleaning the Meetinghouse, and so on.

In preparation for the 300th anniversary the Meeting sponsored a video tour of the building and grounds, explaining its history, accenting every doorway, window, and corner from the ground floor to the third floor, where the timber framing can best be seen. The outside was videoed, explaining why the location was chosen, including the double layer of graves in certain areas, and the Orthodox and Hick-site separate grave sites. Reference was made to several noteworthy Quaker members. Joseph Tatum built the first free standing school for African Americans in New Jersey and donated ten acres for a graveyard for African Americans, some who were killed in the Civil War, fighting to abolish slavery. John Cooper was the builder who designed and oversaw the building of the Meetinghouse, a member of the first State legislature, and who helped to write the first State Constitution. J. Harris Underwood founded the Underwood Hospi-

tal, the first hospital in Gloucester County. The grave of Henry Wood, and the Friends who came to American in 1681 are buried in our burial ground.

To provide food for the occasion, a local IGA was contracted to provide breakfast snacks and lasagna for lunch. No one went away hungry.

The program was a walking tour of the Meetinghouse and grounds, provided for by a video for those who chose to see the tour from a comfortable chair with a cup of coffee in hand. To add realism to the tour the Meeting invited Levi Albertson, a local Jewish inhabitant at the time the Meetinghouse was built in 1715, the part played by Louis Detofsky in costume and the accent of the era. The tour took about an hour. The video tour can be purchased from WFM. Following the tour the business meeting was conducted.

Everyone seemed to enjoy having SQM in Woodbury. Most important, there was many claspings of hands. We look forward to doing it again sometime.

Friends School Open House

Families considering Friends School for their children and others interested in the school are invited to the Pre-K3 to 8th grade open house presentations listed below. Our school specializes in confident, happy kids with Quaker values. Please RSVP.

To RSVP, or for any questions, please contact Judy Corona-Karpowicz at [856-478-2908 ext. 102](tel:856-478-2908) or jcorona@friendsmh.org

Thursday, January 28 at 9 am

Friday, February 19 at 9 am

Thursday, March 3rd at 6 pm

Friday, April 1 at 9 am

Friday, May 13 at 9 am

Friday, June 10 at 9 am

Steering Committee Report

September 13, 2015

Upcoming Quarterly Meeting programs:

December Quarterly Meeting will be at Mickleton on First Day, December 13, 2015, gathering in the Little Red Schoolhouse at 8:45 am. The program will be the clerk and general secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting speaking about their vision for the Yearly Meeting. Thanks to the Horvays for their detailed report on this.

March Quarterly Meeting will be at Woodstown on March 13, 2016. The program will present various Friends from the Quarter and beyond talking about their experiences as they interacted with the military establishment and civilian groups as enlistees, draftees, conscientious objectors, and non-cooperators, and how they came to become Quakers if they were not to begin with.

Communications

Salem Quarter News. We wish to thank Tom Etherington for his continued excellent production of the publication.

Professional communications work.

From Seaville MM: Jared Valdez made a visit to Seaville and has some suggestions on how we might improve our web site. He is eager to do a follow up visit but it probably won't happen until after our Business Meeting. – Mike Hainsworth

Report from Jared Valdez: • Salem Quarterly Web Site:

- 1) Added security/identity protection to SQ phone number.
- 2) Created a contact form.
- 3) Reorganized Salem Quarter News section of web site. Added online viewing option.
- 4) Added traffic monitoring.
- 5) Activated new spam monitor.
- 6) Created "SQ" logo/icon.

• Woodbury Meeting: Met with George Crispin twice at Woodbury. He was ready to move forward but needed to look into it further. During a recent follow up he reported that he had someone else at meeting who was in the process of build-

ing a web site.

- Woodstown Meeting: Audited existing Woodstown web site.
- Met with a small group from Woodstown Meeting at Friends School Mullica Hill to discuss audit and develop plan for new web site.
- Seaville Meeting: Went with family to Seaville. Proposed project to meeting after worship. Created written proposal after meeting. Clerk of Seaville will seek approval of going forward with a new web site at their September business meeting.
- Steering Committee Meetings: Attended all Steering Committee meetings since last Quarterly Meeting.

Time Spent:

July Steering Committee Meeting – 3 Hours

August 2nd: Visit Woodbury Meeting – 2 hours

August 9th: Visit Woodbury Meeting – 2 hours

August 13th: Visit with Woodstown Committee at Friends School. 1.5 hours

August Steering Committee Meeting – 2.5 hours

August 26th: 0.5 hours in the morning at home, 1 hour at FSMH (including meeting with Mike A.) - 1.5 hours

August 30th: 2.5 hours, Seaville Monthly Meeting

September 3rd: 0.5 hours, web site proposal for Seaville Meeting.

September 5th: 2.5 hours, Salem Quarterly web site.

– Jared Valdez

- Comments received from Committee members: the budget has been well managed; newsletter expenses trimmed; Quarterly Meeting programs are planned and executed; there's now better rotation of Quarterly Meeting venues; Lower Alloway Creek issues are being handled more actively. All that is standard operating procedure, but other Friends are left to do their thing without worry.

We have a committee that meets regularly, with good attendance, and takes on the matters that have to be addressed, deferring some others to the next Quarterly Meeting session. All this without a coordinator. – Jack Mahon

A reminder to all members and attenders: be sure to bring your concerns to your Monthly Meeting's Steering Committee representative.

Encountering the Quaker Muse
A Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts,
South Jersey Chapter event
By Paul Somers

On Saturday, October 10, the South Jersey Chapter (SJC) of the Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts (FQA) held an arts creation day called *Encountering the Quaker Muse* at the historic Lower Alloways Creek Meeting House. Six Quaker artists who are SJC members, each with a different discipline, found inspiration for new works of art rooted in both the spirit, history, and physical property of the buildings and grounds.

There were several purposes for the event. One was to create a closer sense of community in the local Quaker artists. At the conclusion of the day, several spoke of how the experience was quite like a silent Meeting. Another purpose was to challenge the artists of all disciplines to focus on the same topic at the same time. And there was the desire to show LAC to be a vital part of the Hancocks Bridge community. Lastly, one of the requirements of being a FAQ chapter, is to hold three art events per year, and this helped meet that requirement.

At the appointed 3:00 pm stopping time, all assembled downstairs inside in the western wing, finally digging freely into the contents of the refreshment table. Each person in turn shared what they had created that day with the other artists and with some others who came just to see the results.

The Artists' Experiences

Molly Carpenter, drawings — It was a picture-perfect October day, my week before had been extremely busy with multiple deadlines to meet, and I was hard-pressed to find time to take a day to attend this Quarter Art event at LAC Meeting. Once there, the silence and atmosphere of the Meetinghouse and the spirit of the other artists inside prevailed and I settled in to sketching the two wedding chairs and the facing benches (having had a completely different idea in mind when I set

up.). Once finished, I walked around outside looking for a good spot to set up to sketch the Meetinghouse. The best spot was in the road, it was sunny and provided an excellent view of the facade of the building. As I started to draw I saw a figure approaching. Patricia McAllister introduced herself and explained with a smile that people were concerned I might get run over (the road being slow and sleepy). We discovered that I had lived in her ancestor's house in Alloway at one time, and upon talking further that she had always had an interest in the history of the area, of the Meetinghouse, and of Quakerism. It was such a pleasure to welcome her into our day, God moves in wonderful ways. The creative outcomes of the day were



Molly Carpenter in the silence and the atmosphere of the meeting house.



Christine Cameron cutting in a sacred space.

inspiring and varied and amazing, I look forward to our next event!

Christine Cameron, silhouettes, poetry — I had looked forward to an experience of working with other artists, especially having the opportunity to do so at the LAC Meetinghouse. As I worked on cutting a paper silhouette, the words for a poem began coming to me. Now and then I watched the other artists work, and I felt grateful to know them and be with these (F)riends in this sacred space that was helping to foster such a quietly powerful, peaceful, creative energy among us.



Gail Scuderi working
en plein aire.

Gail Scuderi, tile sculpture — Artists most often work alone, in their studios. The FQA event enabled the participating artists to work both in community and in solitude. In this, I think the event was unique. For me personally, the day was the first time I worked *en plein aire*. I found the Meetinghouse property, and the Meetinghouse itself, to be an idyllic environment to center my attention on the surroundings, and on the creative process. Mary's photographs really captured the essence of the day. Hopefully, a future exhibition will reveal the spirit that was expressed in the work of those artists in attendance.

Frances Smith, needlepoint — The fellowship with Quaker artists was encouraging and very peaceful. I enjoyed sitting in the sun while beginning a needlepoint piece on Egypt. This reminded me of my trip to see the pyramids that hundreds of slaves built in their misery.

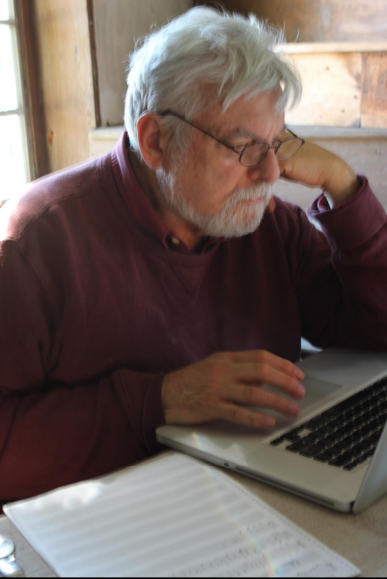
Paul Mack Somers, musical composition — When classical guitarist Keith Calmes could not attend the *Encounter*, he asked me to compose something for him. Upon arrival and setting up, I read the fine brochure on the LAC meeting, and began thinking of ways to use its material to craft a piece of music. After creating some musical motifs, I set to work.

It was like a silent meeting. Instead of spoken ministry, each of us was thinking, meditating, and



Frances Smith remembering
her trip to Egypt.

weighing spiritual leadings in a technical artistic context. Where art is concerned the time is always expanded, so much is needed. But at the end of five hours we each found that we had been quite productive and that the time had flown by. I had fully composed a three minute piece — every detail in



Paul Somers at one of the best meetings ever.

place and ready to send to Keith — an amount of work I had not accomplished in such a compressed period of time in years. I felt as if I had been at one of the best Meetings ever.

Mary Waddington, photography — October 10th was a breath of fresh air warmed by a generous sun. Six of us had committed to a day of creativity. The plan was to work from 10 to 3 and then to share our art with the public. Inspiration preceded us because the site for this activity is a work of art in itself. When we laid our tools down at the appointed hour

of 3 o'clock, it was then I realized I had been in that place of "no time," often referred to as "God's time". Had it really been 5 hours? Or was it 5 minutes? I remember that everything I saw had seemed worthy of photographing and yet there had been no hurrying to capture it. It was as though I had stepped into a current that carried me and sustained my work. Its flow guided my movements. And throughout all this I was being informed by the integrity of the meetinghouse and powered by the palpable synergy of this centered group of artists. It was a day to be remembered.

Another Kind of Worship

Old, old voices
even older cares...
I brought some with me, too
Although I did not come to worship
the Meetinghouse doors are open
the wind and the birds
sing in the buttonwoods
Sunshine streams onto ancient wood
and plays in the waves
of the old glass windowpanes
it creates patterns
pretending to be water
spilling down the hard benches
and seems to soften them a bit...
I sit down
in a pool of brightness
and listen
my artist-self opens
breathing in past and present
while I work with my scissors
carve the word Peace
free it
from this plain black paper
and hold it
up
to the Light



By Christine Cameron
October 10, 2015 - LAC Meetinghouse



Pictured (L-R), Friends Village CEO Dan Murray poses with 2015 Visionary Honorees: Cathy Tilton Messmer, Sally Crane, Alice Waddington, Carlton Gardiner and David Tilton.

Friends Village Honors Four Salem Quarter Members with Visionary Awards

As part of their September 17 Anniversary Celebration, four Salem Quarter members were honored for the foresight and leadership they have shown in the creation and success of Friends Village at Woodstown. This year's recipients were Frank and Betty Tilton Crane, former members of Woodstown and Salem Meetings, respectively; Carlton Gardiner, birthright member of Mullica Hill Meeting; and Alice Way Waddington, birthright Quaker and member of Salem Monthly Meeting. Members of the Tilton and Crane families accepted the posthumous recognition in their parents' honor. This year's celebration marked 119 years of service to seniors begun by the Salem Quarter in 1896 and the 10th year since Friend's Home transformed into Friends Village.

Lower Alloways Creek Meeting House Committee

The Salem Quarter Lower Alloways Creek Meeting House Committee continues to pursue its twin goals of preserving the LAC Meeting House and finding appropriate uses for it.

In early August, volunteers worked to rejuvenate the memory walks. Grass and weeds along the pathways were removed, stones were raised and reset in road gravel, and the area was mulched to good effect. Research indicates that the memory walks were created by the Salem County Historical Society in the 1940's at the time when they rented the meeting house from Salem Quarter. The names on the stones are those of prominent local Quakers, most of whom were living here during the early years of Fenwick's colony. Volunteers also trimmed lower branches from the sycamores and removed weed trees growing close behind the carriage shed. All this was accomplished in time for the annual called LAC meeting for worship which was held on Aug 16.

Short term conservation work is underway. This includes things that need to be done soon to prevent further deterioration, like replacing seriously broken window panes, repairing rotting door and window sills, capping the west chimney, removing and storing badly damaged shutters, and installing temporary support for the east entrance portico. Longer term work will be undertaken only after a preservation plan has been completed. The preservation plan will be written by knowledgeable conservation professionals under contract. An RFP (request for proposal) document has been drafted which, when approved, will be given to prospective candidates for this important job.

An important event is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, Oct 25. Those who know and love the old meeting house will gather to brainstorm future uses for the building. The group will hopefully include many South Jersey Quakers, as well as others from the community who have an interest in the building. The afternoon will begin with a tour of the meeting house starting at 1:30. A brainstorming session will follow at 3:00 in the Salem Annex. Please put this on your calendar and plan to join us.

Another event has been scheduled at the LAC Meeting House on Oct 10. The South Jersey Chapter of the Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts is sponsoring a creative experience, *Encountering the Quaker Muse*. Paul Somers will discuss this exciting event in a separate report.

Worship & Ministry Report

9/13/2015

The committee met at the home of Michael & Rebecca Shapiro (Salem) on Friday evening, 9/11. Eight Friends were present with two out of the seven meetings in the Quarter represented.

Peggy Warner (Mullica Hill) reported that the Gifts Working Group recently met experiencing a deep worship sharing with much personal growth and support offered. She noted the level of commitment among the committee members particularly given the geographic distance that separates them. The group discussed the term “accountable” with the caution that accountability is a two way process, more of a covenant rather than a one sided naming of a gift.

The 5th Sunday Meeting for Worship & Prayer met on 8/30. The committee held the group in the Light as a deep discussion developed regarding the original and evolving purpose of the gathering and its location. Cessation was offered as a method of measuring value by asking, “Is this missed?” The value of meeting in a location that offers a greater sense of community was noted.

Considering the gathering as a form of outreach, the use of a theme was suggested as a tool for providing attendance incentive. This segued into the consideration of the root question, “What do we have to say or offer?” We agreed that the most effective outreach occurs when we are active and visible in the wider community.

We concluded that perhaps in its current form the 5th Sunday Meeting for Worship & Prayer may have run its course of value and effectiveness. Upon determining the intended attendance of the three regular non Quaker attenders at the next planned event on 11/29, we will lay down the event. We did note the need to retain those non-Quaker attenders in our dissemination of information in the hope that they might select a meeting to attend.

We briefly heard an idea for a lecture/workshop series wherein the writings of historic Quaker journalists are presented with contemporary relevance. Friends endorsed the abilities of Chris Densmore, curator of the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore, as a knowledgeable, interesting, and effective speaker.

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 and encourage other Friends to join us, especially those from under-represented meetings.

Light in Old Wood

Paul Mack Somers

Adagio $\text{♩} = 60$

p *mf* *p* *mp*

7 *mf* *f* *mf* *p* *p* *mf*

13 *p* *f* *p*

19 *f* *mf*

23 *ff* *mf* *mp*

30 *p* *pp* *f*

38 *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

44 *p* *mp* *ff* *p*

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Created on October 10 at Lower Alloways Creek Meeting House

Indian Affairs Committee

Members of the Salem Quarter Indian Affairs Committee, Sandra Boone Murphy (Mickletlon MM) and Jim Murphy (Woodbury MM), continue to follow their guide in pursuit of social justice for our local Tribal Nation, the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape. In 2015, their Friendly presence and work has engaged with the following points of light:

- PYM Called Meeting re: "...isms"
- *Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America's Native Peoples, 5th workshop and subsequent facilitator training and hosts*
- Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Powwow, honored guests
- "Doctrine of Discovery, Unmasking The Dominion Code," film documentary screening
- Revisions for Federal Acknowledgment webinar, National Congress of American Indians
- Prayer Circle Ministry, Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation, Cohanzick Tribal Grounds
- Abya Yala Convening Council's collective statement re: DoD, Wampum Lot, Phila
- Wampum Conference, U. Penn Museum
- The Myth of Discovery: Re-thinking the Meaning of Columbus Day; speaker Dr. Reverend John Norwood member of the Nanticoke Lenape Tribal Nation
- Nanticoke Indian Museum, Millsboro DE, Guided tour
- PYM IC Letter to Pope Francis, repudiate the Papal Bulls of Pope Nicholas V (1452) and Pope Alexander VI (1493)
- Nanticoke Lenape Tribal Nation's The Gathering, invited guests
- Carlisle Indian Boarding School, field trip with BYM Indian Affairs Committee
- PYM Continuing Sessions ("...isms") Westtown School

Sandra and Jim's activism continues to lift the work of Salem Quarter, specifically the 12th month 2011 minute supporting the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation in their mission seeking federal and/ or state tribal recognition. However, in 2011, Jim Whelan, did not move Senate Bill 2841 to the floor for a vote to reaffirm the tribe's state recognition. Recently, John Norwood, NL-L member,

Tribal Council Representative and Chief Justice, has informed the Salem Quarter Indian Affairs Committee of the tribe's current lawsuit against the state of NJ. Now, still active and awaiting justice, the tribe asks for a letter of support from the committee on behalf of the Quarter, and dually shared with PYM IC. Information and their full brief is posted on the Cultural Heritage Partners' site: <http://www.culturalheritagepartners.com/lenni-lenape-v-nj/>. As clerk of our Indian Affairs Committee, Sandra welcomes comments and concerns. Her contact information remains as posted in the Salem Quarter News, aliibiondi@gmail.com and 609 221-7247.

Quaker S.P.I.C.E.S. And Natural Burial *by Eileen Cain*

Simplicity ... the very definition of natural burial speaks of exemplifies it. Natural burial is an organic, intimate process that does away with most everything that is unnecessary. The simplicity of natural burial creates the setting for peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship.

Peace might be the most obscure aspect of natural burial. As it relates to Quakerism, it most often brings to mind objection to war and violence, but peace can mean many things. Peace was my first feeling upon learning about natural burial, and again when I visited a natural burial ground. I've known for a long time that current funeral practices are something I just did not want for myself. Since I was unaware of other options, I just chose to not choose anything at all. Discovering natural burial as an option was a huge relief, and I knew immediately that was the right choice for me. I not only felt right about the process, I also gained more inner peace about death itself. The most profound example I've found, is the cathartic effect on not only the person whose body is to be cared for, but also for those who participate in and witness a natural burial.

While simplicity could be considered the basis for all the other values, integrity is the glue, or the spirit of the matter. Thankfully, our society as a whole is beginning to awaken to stewardship of the earth, and to an awareness that all of life is sacred. Death, however, still is held at arms length ... something we all face but tend to not honor until we must. Even then the process is handed over to professionals and in the grip of grief, we fall prey to consumerism and rituals we may not ordinarily choose. Death and dying IS a part of life.

If one's life has spoken to the spirit of living consciously ... with care, awareness, and integrity, does it not make sense that death should reflect one's life?

There are many facets of natural burial, and one can choose to embrace all or some. Of course a person can still choose to be cared for by a funeral director with absolutely no participation by community, and still have a natural burial. At the opposite end is complete participation by family and community, with very little participation (or none in some states) from professionals. Our current practices are relatively new. They did not even begin to form until after the Civil War. Before that, dying and death were a family and community concern. The dying were cared for at home. The funerals and care of the deceased were at home – an intimate and healing practice. I highly recommend you view some videos of community/family involvement. Viewing them is a profound experience.

It is pretty amazing that when we strip anything down to its most basic form, what results is natural, organic, and non-discriminatory. Once the expensive trappings of current funeral trends are taken away, all that is left is body and earth. It does not matter how much money someone had, or the color of their skin, or their religion, or gender identity. Everyone becomes the same – a human being returned to the earth. All are equal.

Stewardship is the most extensive aspect of natural burial, and encompasses land usage and protection, open-space development, ecological restoration, sustainability, preservation of precious resources, reduction of carbon footprints, and the restriction of toxins introduced into the environment. The statistics of the harm and waste of our current funeral trends are staggering. However, the opportunities to turn that around that natural burial practices offer, are just as impressive.

It is my hope that we will begin to engage in conversation about this and take a more proactive stance among those who are called to be advocates for the earth. I hope that we might be led to join those who are already actively promoting a more holistic approach to death and funeral practices. At the very least, it is my hope that an increased awareness will lead to positive changes concerning our burial trends.

Ten Thousand Villages

is coming to Woodstown Friends Meeting the first weekend in December, from Thursday December 3 to Sunday December 6.

Perfect for holiday shopping; the array of gifts available for purchase includes unique handmade holiday ornaments and beautiful jewelry, baskets, scarves; kitchen and dining products; candles, handcarved animals, handmade soaps, toys, musical instruments and more.

Ten Thousand Villages creates opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products and stories to our markets through long-term, fair trading relationships. Proceeds from the sale are returned to the artisans and used for food, housing, education and healthcare.

This event coincides with Woodstown by Candlelight on Friday December 4, at which time there will be a variety of musical performances Friday evening at Woodstown Meetinghouse for which no tour ticket is required.

Friends of all ages are invited to help with the event. Join us for set up at the meetinghouse annex on Wednesday December 2 starting at 9 am as well as pack up on Sunday December 6, beginning at 1:30. Volunteers can shop when they come to help.

Please help to spread the word about Ten Thousand Villages at Woodstown. You can find information on our Meeting website: Woodstownfriends.org or at the Ten Thousand Villages' website at www.TENTHOUSANDVILLAGES.com. Use social media to tell your friends.

Sale Hours

3 pm-8 pm Thursday December 3

3 pm-10 pm Friday December 4

Musical Entertainment Friday 6pm-10pm

10 am-5 pm Saturday December 5

11:30 am-1:30 pm Sunday December 6

Questions? Please contact donnagibson@gmail.com.

Directions to Mickleton Meeting House Kings Highway (Rt. 551) and Democrat Road

From the north, take King's Highway (Rt. 551) from the south end of Woodbury. Go about 6 miles.

From South and East, Take Rt.45 north from Mullica Hill. About 1 mile north of the intersection of Rt. 45 and 322 (Harrison House Restaurant), turn left on Cohawkin Rd. In about a mile, bear left on Cedar Rd. Go about 2 1/2 miles to the intersection with Kings Highway (Rt.551).

Lost: Call 609-206-5329

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Electronic files are appreciated by the editor, including e-mail, and/or .doc, .txt, .rtf, and .odt files sent as attachments. Paper copy is OK. A printed page 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. Deadlines for 2015 are Spring issue Jan. 25, Summer issue April 25, Fall issue July 25, Winter issue October 24.

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*Join us for
Salem Quarterly Meeting
at Mickleton Meeting
on December 13.*

There will be an intergenerational First Day School program at 9:00 in the Little Red Schoolhouse. At 11:00 Christie Duncan-Tessmer, PYM General Secretary, and Penny Colgan-Davis, PYM rising clerk, will share their vision for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, the relationship between their two positions, and the dynamics of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and its constituent parts.

See page 24 for directions to the meeting and the back cover for the day's schedule.

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Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends
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Woodstown, NJ 08098-0055
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Salem Quarterly Meeting
December 13, 2015
Mickleton Meeting House

8:30 Gather at Little Red Schoolhouse
9:00 Intergenerational FDS program
10:00 Worship
11:00 Program (see inside back cover)
12:00 Lunch Bring your own
1:00 Business Meeting

Child care, beverages, soup and bread provided.