

Salem Quarter News

Summer 2018



*What I have seen
to be good and fitting
is to eat and drink
and find enjoyment
in all the toil with which one toils
under the sun.*

The Scriptures were the prophets' words and Christ's and the apostles words, and what as they spoke they enjoyed and possessed and had it from the Lord. Then what had any to do with the Scriptures, but as they came to the Spirit that gave them forth. You will say, Christ saith this, and the apostles say this; but what canst thou say? Are thou a child of Light and has walked in the Light, and what thou speakest is it inwardly from God?

George Fox

Something New (almost)

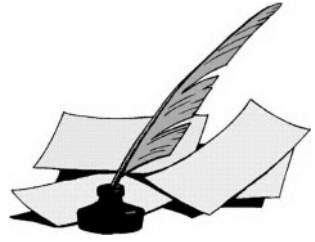
There's more to Salem Quarter than committee minutes and official notices. The quiet Quakers of South Jersey have bits of spiritual insight, thoughts, and personal experiences that are worth sharing. Salem Quarter News has always been open to articles written by our members. Now the steering committee has decided actively to encourage people to write for Salem Quarter News. We will regularly suggest topics to write about, and the hope that this will encourage submission of articles, but writing on all topics is welcome.

Our first suggested topics are Mystical Experiences in childhood or examples of faithful loving from our childhood.

Front Cover
Cape May Beach, Tom Etherington
Quote Ecclesiastes 5:18

Swords into Ploughshares

*By Dietrich Preston,
Clerk of Quarter*



And they beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. Isaiah 2:4

For our 5th Wedding Anniversary, my wife and I revisited the place of our Honeymoon, Scotland, U.K. Such a beautiful destination, I highly recommend seeing the Cairngorm Mountains, Ben Nevis and the Birks of Aberfeldy where Robert Burns, Scotland's patron poet, was so inspired. Along with Scotland's natural wonders, I've always been awed by Scotland's castles and the architectural designs constructed hundreds and hundreds of years ago. Many castles are in ruins, but just as fascinating, and many are still existing as historic museums with beautiful artwork, sculptures and tapestries. As a Quaker, I have to admit to some guilt for getting enjoyment from the ornate (non-simplistic) architecture.

However, there is a dark side to these magnificent structures as to the reason why these castles were built. At the turn of the 1st millenia and during the early to mid part of the 2nd millenia A.D. the people living in what is now Great Britain saw horrible violence and great human suffering which I have learned plenty about and don't need to go into any detail. The fighting and wars that occurred were merely for land, resources and conquest with no true Christian ideology that I could imagine.

It's quite ironic that today some of these castles have been turned into hotels, spas, restaurants, places of quiet peace and respite. If you ever visit Edinburgh Castle you will see people from every continent of the world, every nationality you can think of, speaking every language you ever heard. If the kings, queens, nobles and armies of old could only imagine that one day people from all over the world would visit these places without fear and savagery all around them.

Does this world still have war, poverty, savage violence and suffering? Sadly, the answer is yes. During my lifetime and my parent's lifetime we have seen conflicts in Korea, Vietnam,

the Middle East as well as elsewhere, however, they were not anything on the same scale as World War II. I pray that human beings never have to live through something like that again. The question I ask myself is, are we evolving into a more peaceful human race even over the past 1000 years? I'm fully aware there is an abundance of pro-military, pro-gun rights activists in the U.S. as well as countries with unstable violent governments and overall people who don't seem very peaceful. Is it possible to be pro-military and pro-peace? Do the two contradict each other and do you have to choose one side or the other?

These questions have puzzled me for years. All I can say is that I do feel safer and living more peaceful today (although not completely) than I would living in the world 1000 years ago. I hope we are evolving into a more peaceful planet, but I know we still have work to do.

Blessings to all,

Dietrich

Salem Quarterly Meeting Minutes
6/10/2018

Salem Quarterly Meeting met 6/10/2018 at Greenwich Lower Meetinghouse. Out of worship, clerk Dietrich Preston (Woodbury) convened the meeting, welcomed Friends and visitors, and expressed our gratitude to Greenwich Friends for their gracious hospitality. We thanked Allied for American Promise for their presentation this morning. There was a Friendly presence for business of eleven representing six of the seven monthly meetings in the Quarter.

Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting on 3/11/2018 were approved as they appeared in the Salem Quarter News.

The **Finance Committee** report was submitted by Michael Shapiro (Salem). The report included a current fiscal year report and the proposed budget for fiscal year 2018-19. (*See report p. 7*)

Friends approved contracting Jared Valdez to provide marketing/communications service directly to Salem Quarter for 2018-19 fiscal year at the annual rate of \$4,800.

Friends approved the 2018 -19 Budget as proposed by the Finance Committee.

On behalf of the Indian Affairs committee, Sandra Boone Murphy (Mickleton) submitted a written report and noted some of the highlights. *(See report p. 20)*

The Worship & Ministry Committee meet on Friday evening to hold the Quarter in the Light, address concerns, and make plans for a new lecture-discussion series. *(See report p. 11)* The committee united in bringing a minute of religious support to the Quarter for Sandy Boone Murphy (Mickleton) as she works and travels on behalf of the Salem Quarter Indian Affairs Committee.

Friends approved the minute of support as follows:

Salem Quarterly Meeting for many years has acknowledged the gifts of Friend Sandy Boone Murphy from Mickleton Monthly Meeting. We have shared and endorsed her leading as witness with local Lenape-Quaker relations both spiritually and financially through the formation of a Salem Quarter Indian Affairs Committee of which she is a member. Our Quarter Worship & Ministry Committee is always available to her for spiritual support. Salem Quarter has further supported the work of the Indian Affairs Committee with minutes of support and the dissemination of regular reports.

Friend Sandy's individual gifts and abilities to seek and listen for Truth have led her on a path as a peacemaker. The relationship that she has built with the Tribal Nations as an individual and as a representative of Salem Quarter is deep and insightful enriching both communities with an abiding peace, friendship and respect. She participates with the Nanticoke-Lenape citizens non-public interfaith worship, familial Gatherings, sacred-fire ceremonies, as well as events open to the public such as annual powwows, workshops, and educational talks; she has a wealth of knowledge and perspective to share.

Salem Quarter reaffirms their support of the Quarter Indian Affairs committee and of Friend Sandy Boone Murphy with this Minute of Religious Service. We ask that you receive her with gentleness and join with her in listening for and following the guidance of the Spirit.

Dietrich Preston (Woodbury), of the Tri-Quarter Gathering reported the proposed theme for the next gathering will be "We are Family" with multiple intergenerational activities planned. Advance date flyers were available for the event which will be at Camp Ockanickon on September 28th – 30th.

Cindy Cox Crispen (Woodbury), clerk of Tri-Quarter sent the following message: “As Clerk of Tri-Quarter, I cannot stress enough the importance of Salem Quarter supporting this valuable family friendly Quaker Retreat, especially since it is highly attractive to the future Quaker leaders: children, teens, and young adults. Indeed, many Young Adult Friends have attested to the fact that if it had not been for their Tri-Quarter yearly experiences, they would not be Quakers today, since it was this Quaker weekend which kept them linked to their religious community.

In conclusion, the Tri-Q Planning Committee volunteers understand that SQ funds are limited, but we believe that supporting Tri-Q Gathering is truly a major investment in a positive future of Quakerism and the world.”

A brief written report from Friends School Mullica Hill was submitted by Bill Carrigan (Mickleton). (*See report p. 10*)

Continuing Sessions will be holding a gun violence workshop to coordinate efforts on this issue. There are currently multiple efforts on this issue that could be more effective if they are coordinated.

Jared Valdez (Mickleton) has been awarded a \$2,500 Pickett Grant and a \$1,000 grant from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Membership development for a South Jersey Quakers video project with Jon Watts. Salem Quarter Steering Committee will provide the requisite supervision. Additionally, interest has been communicated in creating a joint social media effort with Haddonfield and Burlington Quarters to promote Quakers and Quaker events in South Jersey. Steering Committee has expressed support for this concept.

Salem Friends approved a minute of support for the creation of a South Jersey Quakers group which would consist of the three quarters, Burlington, Haddonfield and Salem. The name South Jersey Quakers would avoid confusion with the Tri-Quarter Gathering. This group would have a Steering Committee of two representatives from each Quarter whose purpose is to promote Quakers in South Jersey. An eventual website is one of their goals. They intend to seek grant support. Initially the only costs to the quarters incurred would be in kind support from paid staff in each quarter.

Meeting was closed in worship.

Rebecca Shapiro, recording clerk

Finance Committee Report 6/10/2018

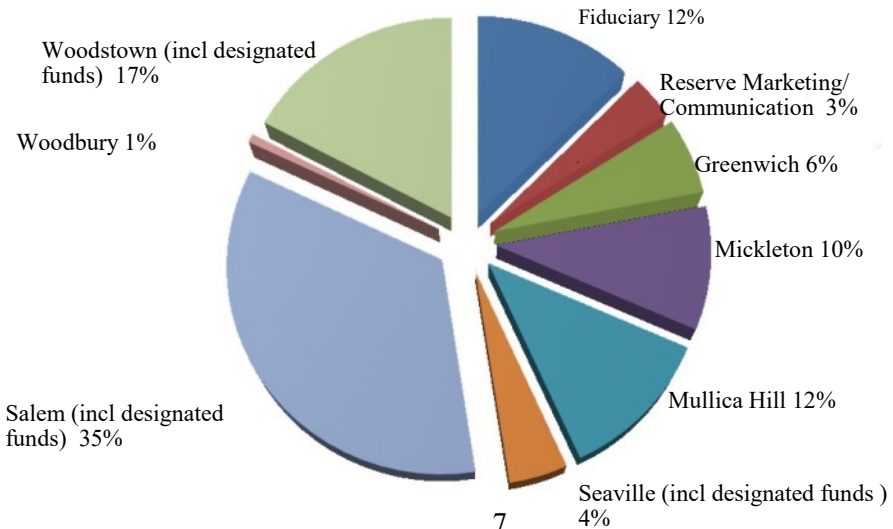
Marketing /Communications Consultant

Both the Steering Committee and the Finance Committee recommend that the Quarter continue to benefit from the services of Jared Valdez as Marketing /Communications Consultant. As a result of this position we now have an enhanced website, electronic monthly bulletins, a South Jersey Quakers video series, *Clearly Quaker* podcasts, and use of social media to make Salem Quarter meetings a known part of our communities. A recipient of the Clarence and Lily Pickett grant, consultant Jared Valdez will be working with Jon Watts on a new project to benefit Salem Quarter at no cost to us. In addition to the direct benefit to the Quarter, Jared has also worked with the monthly meetings in an advisory capacity on their own websites. The utilization of Jared's gifts and expertise has made Salem Quarter technology an example and a goal for other Quarters. The arrangement will now be directly with Jared as he has taken a new position and will no longer be employed at Friends School Mullica Hill.

2018-2019 Budget

The Salem Quarter Finance Committee met on May 12th. Out of worship they reviewed the balance sheet of our accounts both checking and Fiduciary, reviewed covenant payments for 2017-2018, covenant pledges for 2018-2019; and considered year to date expenses and projections in preparing the 2018-2019 budget proposal.

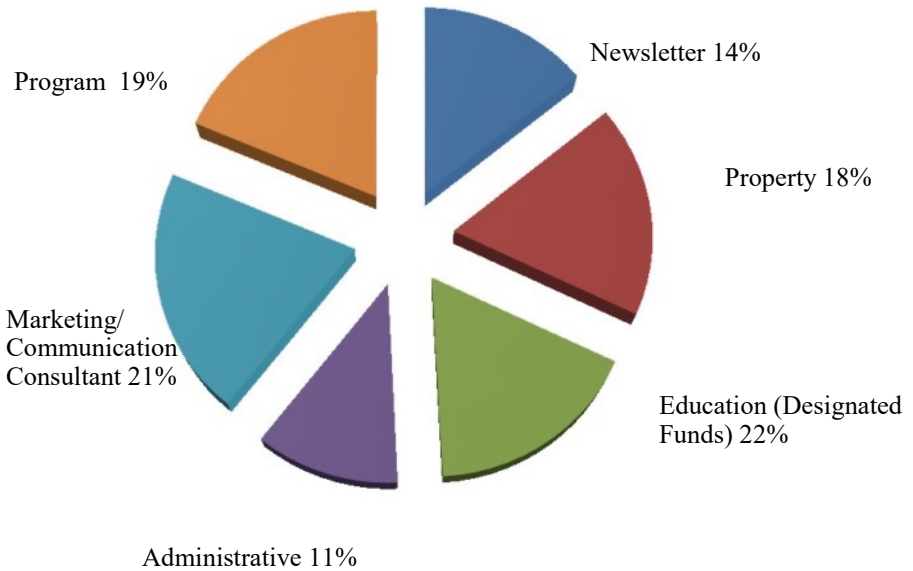
SQM Income 2018-2019 Total Income \$23,189



Information from recent Fiduciary disbursements and covenant figures, paid and pledged, from the monthly meetings yielded the income projection on p. 7. Woodstown, Salem and Seaville designated that a portion of their covenants subsidize the Education Fund. The anticipated depletion of the marketing/communication staff reserve was marginally postponed due to unanticipated revenue in 2017-18.

Based on anticipated fixed costs, available income and Salem Quarter directives, the committee proposed the following expenditures:

SQM Expenses 2018-2019
Total Expenses \$23, 180



Administrative expenses include PO Box rental, general postage, website; technology/marketing costs; computer maintenance, office supplies, and event liability insurance (\$1,430). They total \$2,650, including an allowance for a one-time recording technology equipment purchase.

Education expenses are the amount that the Quarter contributes toward the disbursement of scholarships from the donor restricted education fund at Fiduciary. Subsidy of the Education Fund makes possible awards ranging from \$300 - \$1,000 for each qualified student per year depending upon the number of applications. The committee noted that this not only benefits the student directly, but the

Quaker elementary and secondary schools those students attend. Education has long been a priority for Salem Quarter Friends. With an ever increasing number of applications, the Finance Committee advocated the inclusion of a \$500 education expense to supplement the designated funds.

Newsletter expenses (\$3,300) represent a portion of the Quarter budget. This is proportionally appropriate as the newsletter represents the primary form of contact between the Quarter and individual Friends within the Quarter. Care is continually exercised to insure minimal waste in both printing and mailing. We have benefitted from monthly electronic bulletins at no additional cost to the Quarter.

The expenses of the marketing/communications consultant (\$4,800) were initially offset by the income from the Paid Staff Reserve. They are now primarily paid from general income.

Program expenses include allowances for the four Quarterly Meeting programs for both adult and youth (\$1,000); Quarterly Meeting child care (\$250); special programs, worships, and retreats hosted by the Quarter (\$500); an annual outreach ad in the Friends School Mullica Hill auction book (\$300); scholarship funds for the Friends School Mullica Hill 8th grade Costa Rico service trip (\$700); funds for unspecified donations or outreach as may be approved by the Quarter (\$200); funding for the annual Tri-Quarter Conference (\$1,000); support for the SJ Chapter of the Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts (\$100); and as directed by the Quarter, small budgets for the Indian Affairs Committee (\$50) and for the Southern State Worship Group (\$225).

Property expenses are those costs incurred for the maintenance and insurance of the LAC Meetinghouse and the Lower Alloways Creek and Harmersville cemeteries (\$2,625) that exceed the donor restricted LAC Property Fund income. An additional part of property expenses are the costs of maintaining the Port Elizabeth cemetery (\$1,500).

Current Finance Report

Since last Quarterly Meeting in March, Covenant income totaled \$2,285. All meetings have met or exceeded their covenants. Our expenses were \$280 and included payments for postage and Carpenter Tree Service. Final bills for this fiscal year are anticipated soon. Our expenses are on target for the year. Slightly higher income has been applied to the paid staff reserve.

From Our Friends School

*Bill Carrigan
Clerk, Board of Trustees*



Meeting for Worship with attention to the graduation of this year's 8th grade class of ten students took place 4:30 June 10 at the Mullica Hill Meetinghouse. Graduation took place on Tuesday, June 12th, at 7pm. All members of the Quarter were invited to attend.

The Board of Trustees, under the leadership of new Head of School, Matt Bradley, recently completed an updating of the mission of the School and the strategic vision of the future. Please be on the lookout for details from T. Matt about these items in the near future!

A wonderful celebration of T. Hanshi Deshbandhu's fifty-year history with Woodbury Friends School and Friends School Mullica Hill took place on May 31, 2018. Next year, the School will be actively engaged in planning for the 50th Anniversary of Friends School Mullica Hill, which will be celebrated in the 2019-2020 academic year. Anyone who wishes to be involved should contact Matt Bradley or Cori McMahon, the clerk of the 50th Anniversary Steering Committee.

The School remains eager to enroll any Quaker children for the coming academic year. If there are any concerns about the tuition, this should not prevent families from inquiring as generous financial aid exists.

The Annual Fund for this academic year closes on July 31, and we would greatly appreciate contributions of any amount from the local Quaker community.

Worship & Ministry Committee

6/10/2018

The Salem Quarter Worship & Ministry Committee met on Friday afternoon at the home of Michael and Rebecca Shapiro with seven Friends from three meetings in attendance. We began with worship and considered two agenda items and two concerns that rose from worship. A planned multi-week workshop series on Marcelle Martin's book, *Our Life is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey*, was postponed until Marcelle Martin is in the area, available to facilitate. We hope to offer this series in the fall of 2019.

We enquired and offered support to Mary Waddington with regards to her prison ministry work. The recent issues with pastoral certification were in error and have been resolved. Mary shared a concern with a request on behalf of another prisoner possibly in need of a mentor. She has been seeking clearness on the best path forward, balancing the prospect of a long-term commitment with her own health needs. Out of worship and discussion, Friends identified possible social justice trained resources from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and considered that correspondence with the prisoner might be a first step until a mentor comes forward. The sense of the committee was to accept joint responsibility and initiate correspondence at our next meeting. This may take the form of a group written note, individual letters, or simply shared articles or inspirational thoughts. We have no expectation of response.

We reviewed the Pendle Hill pamphlet *Welcome to Meeting for Worship*. As part of the introduction to worship the text discusses vocal ministry, its discernment and practice. Over time this may prove educationally valuable to Friends. We proposed that a centrally located afternoon workshop in early November might serve Quarter Friends. Sandy Boone Murphy offered to reach out to her Pendle Hill contacts in search of a workshop leader. We hope to make specific arrangements by our next meeting in September.

Friends united over a request for a Minute of Religious Service for the Salem Quarter Indian Affairs Committee and Sandy Boone Murphy. The committee will present the minute at quarterly meeting for business for consideration.

We closed in worship, grateful for the opportunity to once again gather in deep and loving support of each other and of Salem Quarter. We invite Friends to join us and experience the richness and inspiration of worship with attention to business at our committee meetings

CLOSING THE CIRCLE

by Mary Waddington

As a sage 90-year-old Friend at University Meeting in Seattle once told me, “Mysticism is meant to be an everyday occurrence.” I’ve kept this Truth alive within even when I couldn’t seem to access it over much of my adulthood. Why was mysticism the norm in my childhood but rarely showed up during the middle years? Only in the hindsight revealed by my journals was I given an answer that rings true for me.

I was blessed to be born into Quakerism as well as to innovative parents who chose an isolated piece of land on the banks of the Delaware River to raise their family. This property came with a 100-year-old primitive octagonal cottage bereft of utility lines and a road. We kept it warm and welcoming with kerosine and wood and walked a lengthy deer path to the closest neighbor with a road. In the absence of indoor space or toys, we kids amused ourselves in nature while our parents amused themselves chopping wood and carrying water. In this manner of living, the stage was set for a mystical childhood.

Our family never owned a boat but we always managed a hammock, and we’d sling it between two trees at the brow of the beach. After chores and rigorous beach play, I’d lie in the hammock, waterlogged and spent, watching the rhythmic movements of the waves. Mother Nature was my closest ally, ever present, requiring nothing I could not give and giving everything I could possibly want. Summertime unfolded in an abundance of silence, space, time and trust. Each day was wide open to me and I gave myself to it fully. I belonged.

On the afternoon of my recounting, while the sun and the tide were loosely keeping time, I was not. The day would be endless, as yesterday was and tomorrow would be. I looked out over the river and saw it as mine. I knew it like I knew my mother’s face. The hammock swayed and this movement entered me. Small waves lapped at the sand, and lapped, and their lapping drew me into them until somehow I became them. I felt a huge happiness pushing outward from my chest and however it happened, I expanded until I became the river. And then I became the sky as well. I did not leave off being me; rather I enlarged to include the whole of the universe—and it, in turn, was me.

That was my first experience with the Oneness but not my last. At the time, I did not ask myself how or why this happened. It simply seemed a natural wonder of my wonder-filled youth.

I leaned on my instinct to survive during the stressors of my middle years with their overcommitted and overwhelmingly burdensome impacts, through all the years of my rescuing and dependence on blinders. But the cost of survival was autoimmune diseases and heart failure and a disruption in the steady flow of transcendence. So now, in my last-

chance years in this embodiment, I've been casting off the earthly trappings that fettered me to what I now see as the unnecessary or insignificant. They were the thieves of my silence, my space, my time and my trust. They kept me below the fly-level of freedom. They blocked the doorway to the mysticism that consistently awaits us on the threshold.

Having evaluated my past and compared its parts, I understand both hunger and fulfillment and where they come from. Unshackled, my days now contain many aspects of my childhood. They unfold slowly, mindfully, in an atmosphere of worship. The door is open and mysticism moves in and out freely. I feel the Divine breath brush against my cheek, guiding me through my final years. I have come full circle in my knowing.

I'm shifting my focus to root causes. If I were to describe today what the Oneness is like for me, I'd say it's an encounter with pure Love. Mysticism does not come in sizes. The flicker is as grand as the one that knocks you to your knees.

At September Quarterly Meeting

Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions

A Quaker Zionist Rethinks Palestinian Rights

A longtime Quaker Zionist, Steve Chase wonders if a just and peaceful future for Palestinians depends on nonviolent international pressure directed at the State of Israel through boycotts, divestment, and sanctions seeking full compliance with international law and universal human rights. This pamphlet briefly describes Palestinian and Zionist/Israeli history since the late nineteenth century, the development of the BDS movement and Quaker response to it, and what led Steve Chase's perspective to shift over time. Discussion questions included.

Steve Chase is a member of Putney Friends Meeting in Vermont and a longtime Quaker educator, activist, and writer. He is the author of [Letters to a Fellow Seeker: A Short Introduction to the Quaker Way](#) as well as Pendle Hill Pamphlets #431, [Revelation and Revolution: Answering the Call to Radical Faithfulness](#) and #445, [Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions? A Quaker Zionist Rethinks Palestinian Rights](#).

Check the Salem Quarter eBulletin for time and directions.

39th Annual Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Powwow

by Sandy Boone Murphy

The 39th Annual Nanticoke Lenape Powwow, held on the Salem County Fairgrounds June 9th and 10th may now enter into history. Pow-Wow, from the Wampanog Indian word “pauwau,” refers to a gathering, conducted by a holy man/ medicine man, to heal the souls and bodies for his people. In western states and Canada, it is a time for hunting, feasting, ceremonies, trading, friendly competitions. Today, these two ideas in combination are representative of the Powwow as well as an opportunity for Native Americans to reach out to share their culture with non-natives.

Chief Mark Quiet Hawk Gould commented in part, to “All My Relations and Supporters... Since 2012 we have been under attack by the NJ state government trying to break our spirit. Not because we did something wrong but because they wrongly think we might want something (casinos) that we have proven we believe is against our spiritual values. We must continue to help one another like our families before us, support our youth and help them to advance, teach our history, teach survival, teach respect and spirituality...Whatever happens in the courts, whatever the verdict we hope will come soon,...we have won!”

Salem Quarter was present, represented by the Indian Affairs Committee. The table display and ensuing conversations high-



lighted the booklet by Pastor JR Norwood (Nanticoke-Lenape), "*We Are Still Here*"; the work of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition; *Toward Right Relations with Indigenous Peoples*, workshops by invitation; and Mickleton MM's last of their *Series Toward Radical Justice and Fearless Faithfulness* (set for Sept. 16 at rise of fellowship ~11:30.) An additional handout featured all 7 of our SQ meeting's addresses and times for worship; and on the reverse side, our SQ Minute of Support for the Nanticoke-Lenape Tribal Nation toward Reaffirmation by the state of NJ.

The 8 hour fundraising effort raised over \$60 for the Nanticoke-Lenape Tribal Nation and priceless stories. In conversation, we were one step away from friends of F(f)riends, perhaps you know a few of them too: Lisa Garrison, Judy Suplee, Peggy (Colson) Warner, Mary Waddington, Thompson family, Mary Crauderueff, Christie Duncan-Tessmer, Mary Ellen McNish, Donna Boyle (Choctaw-Cherokee descendant), *Mary Ann Robins (Onondaga/Seneca), Sandi Cianciulli (Oglala Lakota), Jeremy Newman, Cara Blume. Add to the personal connections, the Opening Ceremonies; Tribal Prayer Circle Ministry; Royalty; dances (Fancy/Shawl, Grass, Traditional, Jingle, round, Sneak-Up, Snake, Rabbit/Two-Step, Ribbon, Hoop); birds of prey and a car show; it takes two days to just begin to experience the beauty.



So, find your calendar now, I'll wait...mark the second weekend in June for the Annual Nanticoke-Lenape Powwow! See you for the 40th, June 2019!

Friends Village

The meaning of community as described by Merriam Webster is “a group of people with a common characteristic or interest, living within a larger society.” Friends Village at Woodstown (Friends Village) celebrates the idea of community and the various groups of people that grace our hallways. Each community within our campus is equally important and dependent upon each other for success. Our resident community that is made up of more than 300 adults over the age of 62, is the beneficiary of our community of care and the reason why Friends Village exists. Our staff, that includes an average of 250 individuals, embraces the role of the caregiver every day of the year. And finally, our volunteers, board members, donors, grantors, family members, neighbors, and vendors form a supportive network that is an essential element to our existence.

Community has always been important to Friends Village, evidenced by a history that spans more than 120 years. We are proud to offer trusted programs and services that enhance the lives of the seniors we serve through Independent Living, Assisted Living, Rehabilitation, Memory Support, Skilled Nursing and At-Home Visitation. But none of this would be possible without our internal and external communities. Our residents give us the opportunity to share our gifts and talents while our staff members, volunteers, board members, donors, grantors, family members, neighbors and vendors sustain our reputation for excellence. Together, we strengthen our healthy foundation that keeps our work relevant and meaningful.

Friends Village works to unite our communities in our pursuit to continually improve our campus and programming. The next year will bring an upgrade to security on our campus with the installation of electronic kiosks at every reception desk and changes to the accessibility of some entrance areas. Staff members have already participated in multiple competency workshops; designed to offer on-going and on-site professional development for every individual employed at Friends Village. Our calendar will feature the addition of new activities creatively designed to enhance the lives of our residents and others within the greater community. All of this is made possible through grant funding and collaborative efforts between other nonprofits and corporations.

We invite everyone to become a part of our community in some way. Our website www.friendsvillage.org provides details on the multiple ways that the greater community can connect to Friends Village. Our doors are always open to new residents, volunteers, donors, corporate partners, and staff members.

Carol Roth Salem Quarter's fourth coordinator passed away on May 30, 2018. Friends have asked that we publish one of her writings as a memorial. The following piece first appeared in *What Canst Thou Say?* It will be reprinted in their August issue, and is printed here by permission.

Opting to Live

Carol Roth, a member of the WCTS editorial team, sends her deep gratitude to those who responded to the call for prayers in the last issue of WCTS. She has sent us the following report on how the Spirit is finding her as she recovers from orthopedic surgery and lives with Barretts Syndrome, a painful and potentially fatal condition of the digestive tract.

I have decided to opt to live. For a while there I let myself get so tired of the pain that I really became depressed. Having had experiences wherein I have been to other levels and know of the peace and beauty that awaits, I began to yearn to go home where pain would be gone. But something happened this past week that has turned my entire thought system around. What I am going to relate is just an incident but boy, what it did to my soul is amazing.

On a windy day last week our overhead gutters were clogged with leaves, and I wanted to spare my mailman hubby, Martin, more work. After surgery on my shoulder I couldn't move my arm to use the wire brush to sweep out the gutters, so I asked my daughter Morgan to help.

Morgan is 20 and lives at home while attending college. She was born with what are called essential tremors. Fine tremors run through her body, especially her hands, constantly. She is also a tiny slip of a girl, weighing at the most ninety pounds.

We got out the ladder and since I couldn't sweep out the gutters, Morgan got onto the top rung of the ladder. My role was to stay under her, holding onto her legs, which were shaking just as much from the cold wind as from her tremors.

We did the entire back of the house. We moved around to a one-foot section on the side where the drain spout came out of the gutter. In only a moment we would be done, back into a warm house for lunch and hot tea. I said to Morgan as I looked up at her, "Be careful, honey. Don't let the wire brush fall into the downspout." A second later came the thunkety-thunk of the long-handled wire brush going down the downspout.

She looked down at me, her eyes wide with disbelief. I helped her down off the ladder, where we both collapsed in laughter, sitting on the cold ground, just hugging each other, laughing like crazy. I bet we sat there for fifteen minutes, hugging and laughing.

We knew we had to get the wire brush out from where it was stuck, in the curve of the drain spout as it neared the pavement. But how? It was a stiff wire brush with a very long handle. The curved end of the downspout was riveted together, not screwed or bolted. If we left the brush in, the spout could be clogged with ice come winter. I asked Morgan to un-

wind the hose and drain the water out. I had the idea that the hose would be flexible enough when free of water. I would put it in the down-spout underneath the brush and push it straight up until the brush popped out of the top of the downspout.

Morgan drained the hose and brought it over to me. So I took the hose in hand and stuck my right hand in the spout with the hose. Good. There were the stiff bristles of the wire brush. This would be so easy .

My hand got caught. It was caught in between the wire brush and the hose. I tried to slide it out. No way. The wire bristles were cutting into it. The hose was up against my hand, and there was no way to get my hand out. Morgan said, "Mom, what's wrong?" I replied, "My hand is stuck. It is really, really stuck. I can't get my hand out."

She plopped down next to me. We looked at each other and started to laugh again. We howled, we giggled, we laughed and laughed. The wind was fierce and we were so cold and yet, I was so happy because I felt so grounded in the sense of the moment we were caught in. My daughter's eyes were beautiful, her laughter so rich and full. The wind was delicious. I was fully human, fully alive, totally in tune with the earth, with the soul beside me. I wasn't thinking of being far away from pain, of leaving the earth. I was filled with love for where I was, who I was as a human being, and I knew that I wanted to feel the cold, the wind against my face. I wanted to be here when Morgan graduates. I wanted to live . . .

I asked Morgan to go into the house and call 911. We needed help. She wanted to know what to say and I said, "Just tell them that your mom has her hand caught up in the downspout. We'll take the police, a plumber, just send some help." Morgan was aghast. "Oh, Mom, just keep trying to free your hand, just try once more."

I did. And it worked. I managed to ease my scraped hand out, pushed the hose against the wire brush and there it went, the brush popped out of the top of the downspout. We did it! Success.

Hugging, laughing, now exhausted, we entered the house. When the wire brush flew upwards out of the top of the drain pout, it was as though something that was clogged inside of my own soul simply burst through as well. This seems so silly. But it was a turning point for me. I opt to live. There is such conviction in me now. I have chosen to live; I will live with full attention and full awareness of the time I have to spend here. I will live in attention, in awareness, in appreciation that I am just as human as I am spiritual. I will work to help the healers help me, and I will do the best I can to live a life filled with humor and awe.

Love,

Carol Roth

The Greenhouse of the Mind

George A. Crispin

Somewhere during the months of March or April, when the days get longer and warmer, my thoughts turn to expectations of my garden from which I hope to supply my supper meals with fresh vegetables freshly picked. It is then that my attention also turns to the start of that process, namely the greenhouse. Though it is still relatively cold, but the greenhouse traps the heat, creating an environment suited for the first sprouts to poke the heads above the soil.

Thus, I gather the best soil I can find from the pens the animals inhabited. Into the containers of soil I add lime, to sweeten the PH, vermiculite, to loosen the soil, sometimes a bit of soil enhancer obtained from the local garden supply store, and, at last, the seeds. My garden contains a mixture of vegetables and flowers, both of which I enjoy immensely. I often think of the lines of a poem about gardening, "You are nearer God's heart in a garden/ than anywhere else on earth." Thus it is that my happiest moments are in preparing seeds in my greenhouse.

Being an English teacher, I tend to think metaphorically. We may also have seeds to prepare in our greenhouse of the mind. There are seeds of thought that grow in our mind, hence a mind greenhouse. It is important that we have the right conditions for the growth of our thoughts, the right PH so to speak, the right ingredients

These ingredients are necessary for the greenhouse of the mind to function. Part of the ingredients of the greenhouse of the mind are an up-to-date vocabulary. I often think with amazement of the number of words (seeds) that have come into our vocabulary each year (an estimated 1000.) Words like: microchip, email, hard drive, software, log in. These were words not heard in past years. As well, there are words that have gone out of our language (each year an estimated 1000.) Words like spiffy, balderdash, baffled, rambunctious, drat. Thus it is that we need to gather seeds of the mind for our mental greenhouse. Then the flowers and plants of thought will grow and fulfill the garden of the mind.

Indian Affairs Committee

Since our last Quarterly Meeting, the Indian Affairs Committee conducted business during two set meetings – one face-to-face, and one conference call, a new form of Quarterly outreach.

Friends reported on the non-public Spring Gathering at the Cohansey Tribal Grounds which included Tribal Prayer Circle Ministry, ceremonies, and “breaking of bread.” During the May 3rd-6th Pendle Hill Conference, *Truth & Healing: Quakers Seeking Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples*, Friends from Canada and throughout the United States gathered to learn, reflect, pray, and unite as led, with increased intention and focus. Having built relationships with local Native Nations leadership, SQ Friend seated on the PH planning committee was instrumental in extending invitation to 3 local Tribal Nations' Chiefs. Chief Mark Gould (Nanticoke-Lenape), Chief Dwaine Perry (Ramapough Lunaape Nation), and Chief Dennis Coker (Lenape Indian Tribe of DE) attended the welcoming session and spoke about their sovereign Tribal Nations.

As rapidly as Truths become known and (Re)conciliations commence, we also witness misappropriations of Indigenous Peoples' cultures. The intentional use of another's culture for one's own use is currently attributed to a member of PYM and a second individual implying membership within our Society. These matters are being taken under advisement with Indigenous leadership, requiring careful discernment. The IAC is sending light, energy toward healing, into these darkneses; prayers are requested for enlightenment.

Coming to PYM Annual Sessions are two workshops under the care of the PYM First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative. Friends are encouraged to look for, consider attending, and spread the good word of the FCRC - Thursday session with Young Friends and Friday session with Arla Patch (Doylestown MM).

Named members of the Indian Affairs Committee are Carol Lively, Lois Dinshah, Jim Murphy, Sandra Boone Murphy; the IAC is an open committee of fellowship & service of the Salem Quarter Religious Society of Friends.

The Piano Arrives in 1948 *by Paul Sommers*

(The following is a very clear childhood memory. It was read at my father's memorial service in 2009. He was 97.)

Late spring and already quite warm.

I sat on the concrete steps leading up from the main sidewalk to our front walk. Every car or truck that turned off of West Broad Street, about 150 feet away, onto Hazel Avenue where we lived — and there weren't many — captured my attention for a split second until I saw that it wasn't a moving van.

I noticed Mr. Houchins walking down West Broad toward the Community Center. Since he had two kids about my age — six years old — he was probably my parents' age — mid-thirties, though I think he might have been older. I remember him using a cane, but that was probably years later.

Then a truck turned onto Hazel Avenue and at a crawl came toward me, checking house numbers. I knew this was it and ran in to tell Mom and Dad. The truck was bringing the piano Mom had used as a child. It had been loaned to Wesley Methodist Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, after Mom got married and moved out of the house she had lived in with her mother. Now it was returning to her, to all of us. She and Dad both had had piano lessons when young. They both wanted to be able to sit down and play hymns and better practice the hard parts in the anthems for the church choir. The two of them immediately got to work clearing the space for the large instrument while it was brought up to the door.

Two men who climbed out of the truck's cab guided the driver to back up to the concrete steps upon which I had been sitting near the sidewalk. When the truck was perfectly aligned one man banged on the side of the truck, and the driver stopped it and turned off the engine.

All three set up a big metal ramp to bring the piano down at the top of the two concrete steps. They could see that the five wooden steps from our front walk up to our front stoop would be difficult, so they saved themselves the extra work of getting the piano up the closer steps.

The piano was a dark, tall, concert upright. It rolled easily enough up to the wooden steps. Mom and Dad went inside to move some furniture and roll up the carpet so the piano could roll easily across the

wooden floor. The three men positioned themselves and the ramp so as to get the piano up the steep grade to the front stoop.

For all their combined strength they couldn't get it up more than a few inches. They let it roll back to the bottom of the ramp and took out handkerchiefs to mop their faces. They tried again, and had the same result. The movers didn't ask Dad because he was busy inside moving furniture to make room for the piano. And it would have been unheard of to ask the client to help with the work.

As the workers were going through another bout of face-mopping, the foreman was idly looking over toward Broad Street. There was Mr. Houchins coming back home from the Community Center. The foreman's face lit up.

"Hey, boy!!" he hollered at the top of his lungs.

Mr. Houchins stopped and slowly turned his head.

"Yeah, you, boy!" said the foreman. "Come here and help us with this piano."

Mr. Houchins crossed the street, taking his time but coming over all the same.

"Here," said the foreman, "push here."

With the added effort provided by Mr. Houchins, the piano slowly went up the ramp, across the threshold, and into the place in our living room where it rested for the next fifty-three years. When Dad saw our neighbor behind the piano as it came through the door, he knew only too well what had happened.

The foreman, without a look at Mr. Houchins, gave my father the bill. As Dad wrote out a check and tipped the workers, Mr. Houchins remained standing there. None of the moving men — neither the foreman nor his workers — said a word to Mr. Houchins nor offered him one red cent. They left, taking their ramp with them.

As the movers climbed into the truck, Mom and Dad invited Mr. Houchins to have lunch with us and moved it from the kitchen to our formal dining room table. He accepted, and we had a fine time. As he left after a relaxed and chatty meal, Dad gave him an envelope with a fair amount of money and would not hear Mr. Houchins' protests. "If I had asked you myself, I would accept your gift," said Dad. "But this was very different. You get paid!" And that was that, and Mr. Houchins knew it.

So the instrument which defined the rest of my life arrived on the back of Jim Crow. And it also arrived with a lesson in how to deal with it back then. Dad simply made things right himself. Later came the protests and marches, but in 1948 it was a matter of personal justice delivered personally.

Information for Visiting

(see also www.salemquarter.net)

Greenwich: First Day (Sunday) Meeting for Worship: 9:30 am – 10:15 am (Oct 1 to June 30 at Upper Meeting House and July 1 to Sept 30 at the Lower Meeting House.) First Day School for Children: 10:00 am. First 15 minutes are spent with the Meeting for Worship, except the First First Day of each month when Meeting for Business is held at rise of meeting.

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

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

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

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

Southern State Worship Group: Call Bill Geary 609-898-8892

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

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

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Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the
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Quarterly Meeting
Sunday, September 9, 2018
Seaville Friends Meeting
3088 South Shore Road (Rt. 9),
Ocean View, NJ

Program on Boycott, Divestment, and
Sanctions for Israel

(see p. 13)

Check Salem Quarter eBulletin for time