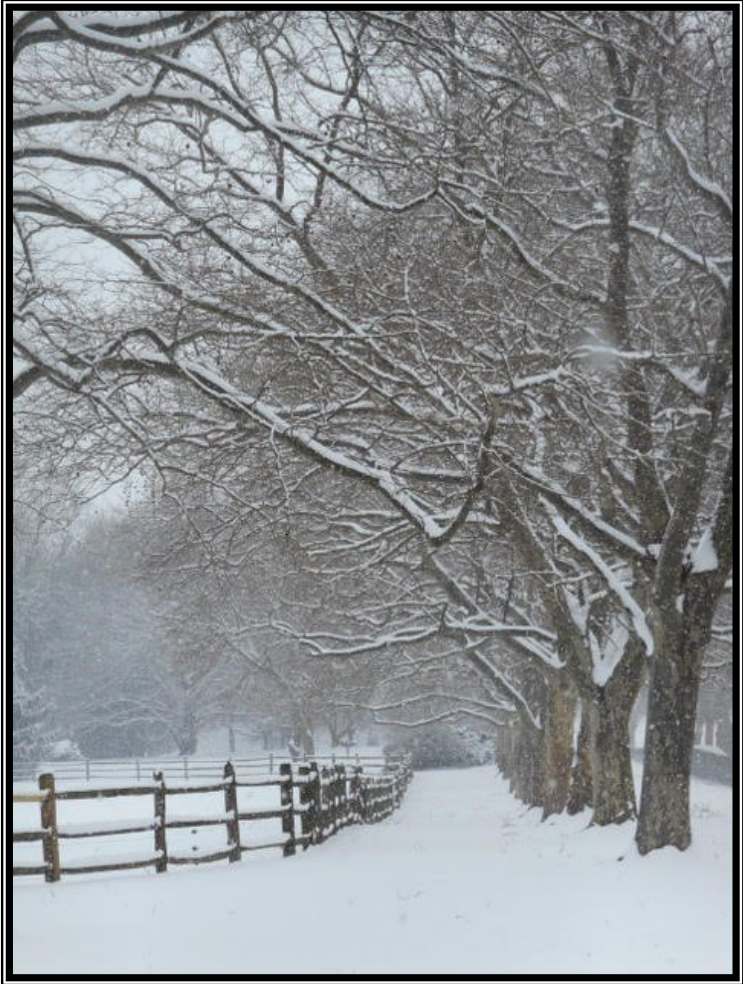


Salem Quarter News

Winter 2021



Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you; for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light.

Uncivil War

... The answer is not to turn inward, to retreat into competing factions, distrusting those who don't look like you do, or worship the way you do, or don't get their news from the same sources you do.

We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal.

We can do this if we open our souls instead of hardening our hearts.

If we show a little tolerance and humility.

If we're willing to stand in the other person's shoes just for a moment. Because here is the thing about life: There is no accounting for what fate will deal you.

There are some days when we need a hand.

There are other days when we're called on to lend one.

That is how we must be with one another

-President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Excerpt from Inaugural Address, January 20, 2021

Front Cover

*"Winter in Mannington Township, Salem County" — Mary Waddington
John 12:35-36 (KJV)*

“PERSEVERENCE”

*by Dietrich Preston,
Clerk of Quarter*



First and foremost, I want to hold in the light everyone that has experienced the passing of a friend, family member or loved one this year whether it was Covid related or otherwise. My heart goes out to each and every one of the families that have experienced such sadness this year.

My wife and I have lost several loved ones in 2020 and it's been hard not to start having feelings of despair.

I recently received a Facebook post from an old close friend from high school whose brother (also a very close friend) has been diagnosed with Leukemia. People were giving words of encouragement through the chat, but then someone posted a poll: "Name one good thing that has come from 2020." I replied with a little levity that I paid off all my credit card and loan debt for the first time since I was a Freshman in college (probably due to the fact I wasn't going anywhere and wasn't spending as much money). This got a few chuckles, but other people started typing things like, "I got a new job," "spending time in the sun by my pool," and "I got to see my son everyday for hours instead of minutes."

In our Adult First Day School it has come up a number of times, as it may have come up at yours, "Why do bad things happen?" and "Why does God allow them to happen?" The best answer that I could come up with is "Because He/She is challenging us as human beings." As parents when we teach our babies to walk we don't just let them lie down and stay there. We pick them up until they can stand, we hold their hands until they can put one foot in front of the other, and we give some distance until they are able to walk over to us.

In God's eyes we need to learn how to function ethically as a society, these "challenges" may seem a little harsh and they have been so over the course of human evolution. But think about all the challenges we have overcome (religious freedom, ending slavery and segregation, voting and holding office rights for women, and preserving sacred land for indigenous people). Think about the diseases and infections that were overcome (bubonic plague, small pox, Spanish flu, and polio).

The difficult truth is that we still have work to do whether it's improving science or society. There was a president who once said that we do things, "not because they are easy but because they are hard." We as Quakers should know this to be true in ourselves while we persevere during these difficult times.

-Dietrich

***Salem Quarterly Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business
December 17, 2020***

Following morning worship on Zoom, Matthew Bradley from Friends School Mullica Hill presented a program about the school's innovative curriculum and how they have adjusted instruction in light of the COVID pandemic. The program was recorded and is available on you tube. (See excerpt p 15)

Meeting for business was opened with worship by Clerk Dietrich Preston at 12:20 pm using the Salem Quarter Zoom account.

Sixteen friends participated, representing five meetings in the Quarter.

Minutes of September Quarterly Meeting for Business were approved.

Standing Committee Reports:

Finance – Jack Mahon expressed gratitude to all the monthly meeting treasurers for the work they do. Our fiscal year ended November 30, and the year-end financial report was reviewed. Income exceeded expenses. Fiduciary income supports care of properties owned by Salem Quarter, i.e. Lower Alloways Creek Meetinghouse and Port Elizabeth Graveyard. (See report p 6)

Nominating – Mike Ayars reported for the committee, which met November 19. David Cadwallader and Paul Somers were renewed as Trustees, and Robert Holden was renewed on Education Fund Committee. Gloria Horvay will continue as interim recording clerk until someone comes forward for that position.

No nomination has yet been identified for Assistant Treasurer. Assistant Clerk remains ad hoc as needed.

Worship and Ministry – Jim Murphy reported the committee met by Zoom on December 10 with five Friends representing three meetings. The Crispin family was held in the light as the committee recalled the gifts George shared around the Quaker community throughout his life. The committee considered how meetings can build community without in person fellowship. See the full committee report on page 8.

Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts – Annual exhibits, including at Friends Village, could not happen this year due to the COVID pandemic.

Mullica Hill Friends School – John Bond thanked those who participated in the morning program.

Marketing Communications – Carleton Crispin reported that the monthly eBulletin is going smoothly. Friends praised its content. The South Jersey Quaker Coalition is pleased with the ads they have rolled out on Facebook for their goal of helping meetings have a digital outreach to increase membership. They have a parenting podcast as well.

Lower Alloways Creek Meetinghouse Committee – Mike Ayars reported the Decorative Arts Alliance did a video interview with a committee member discussing the architectural features of the meetinghouse.

Indian Affairs Committee – Jim Murphy reported the committee met by phone. Tribal grounds are not yet open because of the pandemic. They have been very active with programs throughout the yearly meeting. See full report on page 9.

Cemeteries – Mike Ayars reported joy at finding a map of the Harmersville graveyard in Hancock’s Bridge. Burials have been entered in a spreadsheet, with birth/death dates updated using the Find A Grave website.

Salem Quarter Newsletter – Friends are reminded submissions are due December 15.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting – Bob Horvay reported that the yearly meeting is seeking input from monthly and quarterly meetings on its three major concerns: witness on climate change, movement to address racism, and consideration of membership practices.

Old Business:

Incorporation status – By-laws were distributed for approval. There was a discussion of membership as it relates to indemnification. There will be a called meeting to discuss this.

Upcoming Quarterly Meeting programs:

March Quarterly meeting will be hosted by Woodstown Meeting with a presentation by George Lakey. (See Bio p 22)

New Business:

Bob and Gloria Horvay were thanked for their service on Steering Committee.

Meeting closed with worship at 2:35 pm.

Gloria Horvay, Recording Clerk

*Salem Quarter Finance
2020 End of Year Financial Report
Jack Mahon*

Cemetery: Port Elizabeth	\$915.00
Donations: Tri-Q; FSMH	\$2,000.00
Insurance	\$2,516.00
Alloway Crk Grounds	\$2,165.00
Allo Crk Maint & Utilities	\$100.00
Allo Crk Preservation	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$894.00
Marketing Consultant	\$5,148.00
Newsletter: print	\$1,740.00
Newsletter: list; mail; PD	\$1,407.00
Postage & Fees	\$98.00
T&C, W&M, etc.	\$200.00
Program & Child Care	\$200.00
Re-invest GEN	\$800.00
Re-invest LAC	\$2,100.00
Re-invest Prop	\$3,750.00
Scholarships	\$9,600.00
Webpage	\$359.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$33,992.00

The Quarterly meeting's fiscal year ended 30 November. The chart beginning with **Cemetery: Port Elizabeth** shows end-of-year totals for expenses and income. There should be just a few items needing explanation.

Of \$2,000 in "Donations," \$1,400 went to Friends School Mullica Hill for assistance towards any trip to Costa Rica or general tuition aid. Since Tri-Quarter Conference was virtual this fall, it needed no assistance; the treasurer sequestered 50% of the expected amount, \$600, for fall of 2021.

Covenants	\$18,064.00
FidCor General	\$2,166.33
FidCor AC MH [LAC]	\$3,869.99
FidCor Property	\$892.11
FidCor Education	\$7,099.00
Education Donations	\$3,000.00
Insurance Dividend	\$892.11
Miscellaneous	\$15.00
Other restricted	\$1,400.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$37,398.54

The amount for "Miscellaneous" was almost entirely associated with costs for incorporation. In future, those costs should be well under \$100. The amount in "Marketing Consultant" is not a salary but funds deposited for this and possible future years, should the Quarterly Meeting continue with the program.

SQM 2020						
	A	B	C	D	E	F
	TD Bank	11/30/2019				11/30/2020
1	General Checking Account	\$17,608.18				\$21,005.03
2	[Statement]	\$19,458.18				\$22,365.03
3	General use	\$7,656.87				\$8,255.58
4	Funds in Trust	11/30/2019	Withdrawals	Deposits		11/30/2020
5	Property: Port Eliz. Cem	\$1,355.82	\$915.00	\$892.11		\$1,332.93
6	Alloway Creek MH & Cem.	\$1,032.63	\$3,271.00	\$3,994.99		\$1,756.62
7	Education	\$3,059.86	\$9,600.00	\$10,100.04		\$3,559.90
8	Pickett	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
9	Tri-Quarter	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00		\$600.00
10	Mktg & Comm	\$4,333.00	\$4,381.00	\$5,548.00		\$5,500.00
11	Fiduciary Corporation	11/30/2019	Withdrawals	Deposits	Interest	11/30/2020
12	General Fund	\$59,332.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,166.33	\$65,179.75
13	Alloway Creek Fund	\$110,554.00	\$4,991.00	\$2,100.00	\$3,869.99	\$107,663.00
14	Property Fund	\$24,364.80	\$0.00	\$3,750.00	\$892.11	\$28,114.80
15	Education	\$194,410.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,100.04	\$210,760.89

This chart, **SQM 2020**, shows various accounts at the close of the fiscal year compared to the close of the last. It is important to know that the value of our investments at Friends Fiduciary Corporation dropped about 25% between 13 February and 20 March, not fully recovering until 9 October.

Line 1 shows an increase in the checking account of about \$3,400. Overall, we have more funds and there is a slight increase in the amount available for general use. Line 2's amount reflects outstanding checks, not yet cashed.

Lines 4 through 10 show funds held locally for various purposes. Line 9, Tri-Quarter, was already referenced. Lines 5-10 plus Line 3 will equal the amount in Line 1.

Lines 11 through 15 are influenced by what I've already said about market activity between February and October. Painting at Alloway Creek was \$4,991.

*Salem Quarter Worship & Ministry Committee Meeting
December 10, 2020*

Salem Quarter Worship & Ministry met online with five Friends from three meetings present, Jim Murphy as clerk.

As we entered silent worship, it was noted that George Crispin, a life-long member of Woodbury meeting, had crossed over. We held the Crispin family in the light.

Our work began with queries that seemed quite applicable during this pandemic. Paraphrased, they asked about what visions are required to sustain our community, what gifts are to be nurtured towards that goal and our work, and how is Spirit preparing for this century.

We noted that Meetings continue a virtual presence using various methods of technology. Some have progressed to hybrid physical/virtual meetings where a display provides Zoom attenders access to limited meetinghouse worship. As not all worshipers find comfort in all methods, could there be an area to accommodate more silent and traditional worship?

For nurturing children, it was noted that PYM Religious Education is providing a monthly program called “*Giant Children’s Meeting!*” (First Day School) 9:00 AM on 4th Sundays. (www.pym.org/religious-education)

We queried if there was an anticipated need to reach out to those that are not in attendance. Observations indicated that there might not be a large difference from before the pandemic. If anything, there might be greater attendance because participants are able to attend virtually. And it is anticipated that virtual methods will continue beyond the pandemic.

As we further discussed sustaining our religious community, we noted that in addition to outreach, there is a need for in-reach to nurture all individuals. We understand that as Meetings mature, their dynamics change. Whether attenders move on, drop-away, or remain, however, the original message of Spirit still blossoms, although appearing in other forms.

We value time together outside of first day worship. Long-time relationships often lead to caring for one another during the week just as much as first day ministry. Many social community events have also brought Friends closer together. An historic example was the old Hoedown Hall, a square dance venue hosted by Charles and Biz Thomas of Woodbury Meeting in the 1960’s.

We discussed continued exploration of Marcelle Martin’s work. Future discernment awaits a larger rising.

In sustaining our own Salem Quarter Worship & Ministry work, we discussed how our Monthly Meeting Worship & Ministry groups function. We discussed the value in the Quarter’s Worship & Ministry meetings that flow organically and pause to listen for resonance. Seemingly natural and organic, not preconceived nor artificial, vocal ministry appears constructed from the inside out. There is a feeling that we belong to one another with our spoken ministry and listening.

It was brought forward the feeling of sense of loss of in-the-room hospitality, socialization, and fellowship. Increasingly compounded by relying more and more on sometimes frail tech, whose delays, talk-over, and loss of inflection, sometimes prove quite un-natural. As we yearn for the pass of this pandemic, we marvel at the quickness of medical breakthroughs in these modern times.

We briefly discussed the meaning of membership. How best can we define membership, so as not to seem to be just a part of a legal structure of support?

As natural sunlight diminished, we ended with expectant worship.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Murphy



***Salem Quarter Indian Affairs Committee
Quarterly Report, Third Quarter, 2020***

*Treaty of Amity Wampum Belt (1995)
crafted by James "Lone Bear" Revey (Sand Hill Lenape)*

Spirits undeterred by the nature of physical distancing due to pandemic precautions, f/Friends continue their leadings; we gather by phone as set and as called one to another. Out of expectant worship, "With humility, we acknowledge the corporate structures of Salem Quarter – Friends & attenders of Seaville, Greenwich, Salem, Woodstown, Mullica Hill, Mickleton, and Woodbury Meetings – as occupiers of Lenapehoking, the ancestral territory of Lenape People; home to the Cohanzick Lenape, who contemporarily self-ascribe as the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation, 'keepers of the land.'"

Experiences of relationship building with Nanticoke Lenape leadership, elders, council, youth...stirs our desires to return to Nanticoke Lenape familial gatherings and public events. Meanwhile, we're literacy informed in part by media – "*The Catholic Church Siphons Away \$30 million to Native People For Stolen Land,*" (In These Times); "*One Million Dollar Fund to Help Preserve Lenape Place of Worship,*" (South Jersey Times, Oct. 25th 2020); *In the Land of the Grasshopper Song – (her)story with a twist*; and *Decolonizing Wealth* by Edgar Villanueva. For those unable to attend the Pendle Hill 2020 conference (turned webinar series), *Quakers Seeking Right Relations with Indigenous Peoples*, PH intends to make available their recordings with a collection of webinar related resources.

SQ IAC collaboration is being called in among f/Friends - Coalition of Natives and Allies, Birmingham Meeting First Day School, Abington Friends Meeting, Kendal f/Friends Monday Topic group, Medford's "*75 Things,*" Quaker Religious Education, and a burgeoning group of primarily east coast Yearly Meeting representatives in spirit led relationship with sovereign Indigenous Peoples. Common factors are concern to redress predominant culture's dismissiveness and misappropriations of Indigenous cultures. We've also received relative outreach from high school parents of Absegami (Absecon, NJ); Unionville, PA; Neshaminy, PA; as well as members of a private sports club in Philadelphia who share concern for "racist" mascots/ imagery. Consultations and subsequent (virtual) talks address historic disregard that perpetuate current harms put upon sovereign nations' peoples. In addition, Quaker Religious Education consultation led to a presentation with QRE toward inclusion of cultural resources for First Day School lessons; FDS facilitators named need and want of purging grief and re-educating themselves; each is encouraged to heal, grow, and forgive. On another occasion, prompted by a call from member of SQ, inquiry was initiated with a Tribal Nation receptive to receiving warm clothes; in short turn around, the original caller lovingly packed &, sent their donations - persons unknown to one another, spirit finding way for kindling prayers and kindnesses.

We lift spirit led acts holding unknown outcomes, perhaps similar to Mother Theresa's mention, "...do it anyway." The next set meeting is intended for Thursday, March 4th, 2021, specifics yet to be determined. Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Indian Affairs Committee.

Waiting for the Bucket to Fill
George A. Crispin

When I retired one overwhelming fear haunted me. Would I find enough to do? Could I keep my mind and body occupied, be creative, contribute to life, and go on growing? For the past thirty-eight years my life had been full with my profession. I had lived a daily routine, with much to do daily, a schedule to keep, people to whom I had to answer to keep me on track. Without this might not life flounder? Might I not sink into a malaise of staying up late, getting up late, and trying to invent things to do? I could take a course, perhaps substitute teach, volunteer for some worthy cause.

“Nature abhors a vacuum” is no idle phrase; it is a truism. It did not take long for my life to fill. Fill it did, and with all good things. I now teach part-time at a university, serve on the board of trustees of four worthy institutions, run a small farm, mow grass several places, help rear a small child, help plan family activities, be an activist on public issues, and more. The irony is that I am busier now than when I was employed, which is what all my friends who had retired told me. Now trying my shoestrings puts me behind schedule.

Running a farm is fun and has many healthy benefits, especially when one has a small child following behind asking questions. There is an exact routine that must not be interrupted. Every morning the animals must be fed and watered, lest they start bawling for attention. The stalls need mucking out, the garden needs weeding, the fences need mending, the electric fence needs checking; it is an unbroken routine that sometimes gets in the way of other important matters. All of these chores can be speeded up, corners may be cut, even some aspects skipped occasionally. All except one. The animals must be watered. The buckets need filling.

The hose only runs so fast. No faster. Nothing can speed it up, encourage it to flow faster. It has its own pace, no more. One has to wait. Invariably there is a direct relationship between the pace of the hose and the number of things one has to do that day. The busier you are, the slower, seemingly, the hose flows.

This had led in the past to drumming one's fingers on the post, rolling the eyes skyward, tapping one's toes on the ground, and, when exceptionally booked for the day, saying unrepeatable things under one's breath. It can be frustrating and mar the beginning of a day. Why not walk away and let the bucket fill itself? Because without exception one's attention turns to other pressing matters and the bucket overflows, wasting water and making a mud hole where the animals come to drink.

So one is stuck, wasting time, eroding patience, drumming on the fencepost, rolling one's eyes heavenward.

Rolling one's eyes heavenward may be a metaphor for the unconscious seeking of divine help. It is one of the characteristics of divine help that it often comes when we are not conscious of asking for it. On one occasion the casting of my eyes upward caused the fixation on a beautiful cloud, not just a cumulous combustion of white fluff, but a majestic ship with course after course of sail plowing the turbulent ocean waves. Behind that came a cougar in full stride. Then a form, that of a giant striding across the heavens. This fixation was broken by the song of a bird, not a warble, but one pure, sounding note over and over. My thoughts turned to my father, a farmer who farmed not more than four miles from where I now stood. How many times in his life did he not fill the water buckets? I wonder if he ever wondered as I now do, about the passage of time, or see clouds that look like animals, or hear the pure song of a bird. Somehow as the moments ticked by my thoughts rose higher. How am I doing in life? I thought. Approaching the last third of life, what ought I be doing with this time? Being a teacher, I am apt to think in terms of grades, and often I grade myself on the tasks at hand. But how am I doing in life? I had not thought of it that way before.



Then I heard the water, overflowing onto the ground. Suddenly I was conscious of the irony of that moment. Caught up as I was in taking in this time that I had been given, it was now sudden over too soon. The bucket was filled.

We are all caught in moments when we are filling our buckets. They may not be buckets with water. They may be other buckets. Spiritual buckets. Time spent waiting for a light to change, standing in a checkout line. Waiting in a doctor's office. Precious moments given to us that slow down our busy lives. It is then we can roll our eyes heavenward and see ships plowing the seas, racing animals, and much more.

This article previously appeared in the Salem Quarter News fall 2002 edition

George A. Crispin
1938-2020



On Saturday November 7th, 2020 Woodbury Friends Meeting received the sad news that member and former clerk George Crispin embarked on the next great journey. George was a lifelong member of the meeting, with a deep love of the meeting house and a treasure trove of memories from 80+ years of Friends history. George formerly served on the SODAT board of directors and for many years visited Friends Village. A memorial service will be held in person and via Zoom, date TBD. We hold the Crispin family in the light. Go forth shining George.

I have known George Crispin for more than two decades, having been a member of Woodbury Meeting for more than a decade before changing meeting membership. He was my first teacher there from the very beginning, leading Quakerism workshops on Friday evenings after Potluck. And, of course, in First Day School. And over time he took his teaching skills to share with the seniors at Friends Village in Woodstown.

When people pass, I find it spiritually helpful to go into the silence where I ultimately see what gift(s)/insights they have bestowed. I recently saw a quotation about Quakers being seekers-but that at some point we must share what we have found. I have often had the image of some Quakers as honeybees taking nectar but also giving at the same time.

I know George had been an educator much of his life--including as an Adjunct Literature professor at Rowan University, where I have read student comments that he shared life lessons and encouraged students to disagree with him as a sign that they are thinking. I know I have been in many learning gatherings where there was lively interaction with George and other people agreeing to disagree in the end.

What I have been led to take away from my more than two decades of knowing George is that deep down he had a welcoming spirit. Being a farmer as well as an educator, he loved the earth and he and Cindy made Earth Day a for-sure event at the Meeting House that welcomed everyone to participate and then share a potluck lasagna and so much more afterwards.

George often spoke of himself as "Minister of Grass" as he alone, or with the late Friend Marge Smith, used to maneuver the riding mower among the many cemetery Quaker-fashion headstones. Truly, this physical and time-intensive labor of love over so many decades of the vast Woodbury Meeting Grounds and the earth was nothing short of monumental--and went largely unheralded by most of us. However, he

was modest about what he did in this regard, perhaps because he was led to truly be Minister of Grass. So, he carried that leading with modesty.

I know that George loved to celebrate holidays, inviting the wider community to join in. Earth Day, Easter egg hunt and George-cooked pancake breakfast at the Meeting House, July 4th cookout on the lawn then with fireworks giving opportunity to share Quaker info with townspeople and who can forget Tri-Quarter Gathering, or Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Sharing-Stories Night, and add to these the annual rousing summer 6-week education programs of varying topics after potluck. As attenders, my sons were always included and welcomed warmly--as were other attenders.

As time moved on--and members and attenders did too-- from Woodbury Meeting for many varying reasons, George still seemed to hold onto his original gifts of contributing and reaching out and teaching. I read that one of his Rowan students said that he was all about seeing that they learn.

I have also been led to take away from George's life the lesson that another component of teaching is learning. Self-learning. New-learning. Always learning. A takeaway for myself now in my seventh decade is to not give in to being so set in my thinking and ways that I can no longer agree to disagree.

Peace to thee, F/friend George, with gratitude for your gifts received and lessons taught.

-Madeline

Dear f/Friend George:

Prayers of good health have been answered for a gentle transitioning, bringing you home; we're left sensing that your energy has been met by others who too have crossed into new beginnings; your gifts of resilience, courage, language now destined to be reabsorbed, creating "something more," complimenting what dwells within. May paths of compassion and care be prepared as joyfully as your tending of the fields, goats, and harvests - blessings past, yet to come, and present. May grace and peace unite us.

Walking in the Light,

Thy f/Friends

“Remember”

by Joy Harjo from She Had Some Horses

Remember the sky that you were born under,
know each of the star’s stories.

Remember the moon, know who she is.

Remember the sun’s birth at dawn, that is the
strongest point of time. Remember sundown and the giving
away to night.

Remember your birth, how your mother struggled
to give you form and breath. You are evidence of
her life, and her mother’s, and hers.

Remember your father. He is your life also.

Remember the earth whose skin you are:
red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth
brown earth, we are earth.

Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their
tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them,
listen to them. They are alive poems.

Remember the wind. Remember her voice. She knows the
origin of this universe.

Remember that you are all people and that all people
are you.

Remember that you are this universe and that this
universe is you.

Remember that all is in motion, is growing, is you.

Remember that language comes from this.

Remember the dance that language is, that life is.

Remember.

*Joy Harjo is a member of the Mvskoke/Creek Nation, and is the first
Native American to be named United States poet laureate (2019)*

Quaker Worship at Friends School Mullica Hill Adaptations in the Pandemic

This article is excerpted from the presentation made by Matthew Bradley and Sophie Ragone at Salem Quarterly Meeting on December 13, 2020. Matt is the head of Friends School Mullica Hill and a member of West Chester Friends Meeting. Sophie teaches Spanish and directs the drama program, is an alumna of FSMH, and is a member of Woodstown Friends Meeting.

Quaker life is vital to who we are as a Friends school and an area where we have had to adapt to the pandemic while also continuing practices that are so central to the life of the school. Last spring, when we were in Distance Learning, it was really important for us to come together for worship and we had to figure out how to have worship in this new time. We had worship on Zoom on Friday mornings, and it was truly a special experience. Some students came by themselves. Some students came with their families. Some students came with younger siblings, with their dogs and cats. It was an opportunity for our wider community to be together and worship. Occasionally it was just silent worship with a query but often there was some kind of program before, so there was a storytelling element where a story was read. Zoom was a great forum for that because you could show a picture book and everyone could easily see the images even better than could have happened in the meetinghouse. We had guided meditation so students could relax and center themselves into the silent worship. Each meeting for worship always ended with a song. Our music teacher, Kate, led everyone in a song about peace or light that the kids had learned throughout the school year that they were familiar with.

This year we've had to adapt because we are not all able to be together in the meetinghouse. We still make it a priority each week for a barrio group (pair of



classes) to be able to worship in the meetinghouse so that students still have the opportunity to understand what that space is for and how it can help us center ourselves and worship. We've had worship in our classrooms. We've had worship outside. We've had worship sharing where each student is given a chance to respond to the query. And we've had some other kinds of alternative wor-

ship scenarios where kids were invited to bring a journal outside and respond in their journal with words or images to the query, "When I'm sitting in na-

ture, how do the surroundings influence my thoughts and feelings?" In some ways, it has helped to enrich the worship experience for students. I am a believer in silence. I love silent worship and I think students do, too, but I also think giving them tools to understand how to use that silence can be really useful. A query that invited students to share family traditions for which they were grateful really encouraged everyone in the room to share. Usually many students share but not everyone. But when we shared that query, every student had something that they wanted to contribute to the worship. That's been really very lovely.

The queries have been organized into monthly themes. The first few queries were about peace and extending peace through cultures that are different and similar to ours. The next set of queries were about gratitude and then most recently about simplicity. One query that's interesting asked about how technology helps us to focus on what is essential in our lives. That had come out of a conversation about last year when we were having discussions with students about simplicity and a lot of kids just said, "Well, you know, we'll get rid of our phones." Many of us felt like those tools actually do serve an important purpose. One of our teachers, for example, has family in Mexico and was saying it allows her mom to talk to her relatives in Mexico. That's a possibility that without some of these new technologies we couldn't have. So we were trying to help students understand how a simple life is not necessarily life without modernity or without technology. It's more about how we use it and about how we interact with each other.



"Everything is cancelled."

"Love isn't cancelled"
said the horse. x



*Friends Village at Woodstown
Arianna Hegeman*

The presence of the holiday season is perhaps more important than ever, considering the tremendous challenges and fears the global pandemic has brought into every household. This is the time when we typically reflect upon our blessings and plan for a brand-new year. It seems even more appropriate to find the gratitude that surrounds this season as we approach 2021 with hope for a healthier tomorrow. We have been inspired by the way our communities have supported each other as neighbors reconnected or perhaps met for the first time while families and friends found creative ways to stay in touch. Our country now has a greater appreciation for health care workers, first responders, teachers, and small business owners. Despite the sadness and uncertainty of the past several months, may we find comfort in the season that highlights the things that matter most; faith, family and friends.

Friends Village at Woodstown has made the commitment to focus on gratitude whenever possible as we continue to work together with our staff, residents, families and community members to not only keep our seniors safe, but to also concentrate on the quality of life that is equally important during this time. We wish to thank everyone who has helped us this year; your cards, homemade masks, Facebook messages, and financial contributions have made a remarkable difference. Thank you, for thinking of us, during a time when you may have been struggling and sacrificing in your own way.

We wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season and we look forward to seeing you as soon as possible in 2021.

Shoveling
by Gunilla Norris



The snow comes down in heaps.
All that white mess. It's beautiful.
But when I look at it now, I see
only INCONVENIENCE. How much
of Your world do I regard in this way?
Why is it so hard to live with
the beauty of "the way things are"?

I'm always wanting my own weather.
Instead, here are six inches of white stuff
to glower at. I bundle up and begin the task
of making navigable trails.
The shovel rises and falls.
I am getting heated.

How many things do I shovel aside?
How many ways do I have to pile things up
out of my way? I am always arranging instead of appreciating.

I want to feel a proper shame.
You've made every snowflake
in its own pattern. Not one is the same.
Here they are six inches deep!
Each an individual.

How precise and abundant are the forms
You have given Your creatures.
How staggering is Your care.

The snow is shimmering from within itself.
It has a pale blue light...
the confidence of its own nature.
And now despite myself, I feel
You turning my complaint into begrudging praise.

I am grateful that You give me these new eyes to see Your joy,
even as it sky-rides into my backyard
and forces me to come to grips with it.

Bang Bang Broccoli
by Ellen Preston, Woodbury Monthly Meeting

By the time January rolls around, we have had our fill of heavy and sweet foods such as ham, lamb, eggnog, cookies, and chocolates galore. It is time to bring vegetables back into the diet. This is an easy recipe and even picky kids love it. This can be made in a frying pan, or an air fryer. And the best part - broccoli is a rich source of vitamins, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants. It is an excellent source of vitamin C, one cup has as much Vitamin C as an orange.

Bang Bang Sauce

¼ cup mayo or vegan mayo

2 tab chili paste

1 tab agave

Note: An alternative sauce is to use sweet chili sauce mixed with honey.

Bang Bang Batter

1 cup almond or cow milk

1 teas apple cider vinegar

¾ cup flour

½ cup cornstarch

1 teas salt

2 teas hot sauce

And the Rest

2 cups panko

red pepper flakes

1 head of broccoli

Oil for frying

1. Make the dipping sauce. Whisk together the mayo, chili paste, and agave. Set aside.
2. Make the batter.
 - a. Add the apple cider to the almond milk and set it aside for a few minutes to make buttermilk.
 - b. Add the flour, cornstarch, and salt in a mixing bowl.
 - c. Add the hot sauce and almond milk to the dry ingredients in the bowl. Mix.
3. Put panko in a bowl by itself. Toss in a few red pepper flakes.
4. Cut the broccoli into florets. Put oil in the frying pan (a cast iron skillet is great) and heat it up, or warm up your air fryer.
5. Dip the broccoli in this order:
 - a. Dip in the batter.
 - b. Then dip in the panko. Coat thoroughly.
6. When the oil is hot in the pan, use tongs to place each coated floret into the oil. Let each side turn golden brown and crispy. You'll want to use the tongs to move the pieces around so they are evenly brown. If you are using an air fryer, spritz them with oil before placing them in.
7. Voilà! You are done. Serve the florets with small dishes of the dipping sauce.

TWAS THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Twass the day after Christmas
When all through the house,
Everyone was exhausted,
Even the mouse.

The stockings that were hung
By the chimney with care,
Where scattered around
Almost everywhere.

The children are still asleep in their beds,
I don't know what they have dancing in their heads.
That man and his reindeer made a hole in my roof,
The snow in my bedroom certainly is proof.
And when he came down my chimney,
He didn't seem to care,
He got soot all over everything,
Including my favorite chair.

He was smoking a pipe,
And the smoke filled the air.
If I wasn't allergic to pipe smoke,
I probably wouldn't care.
He left a bundle of cheap toys
Which were scattered around,
And each one, if you looked carefully
Made in China can be found.
If they are not recalled and taken away,
The kids will at least have something with which they can play.

While the man in the red suit must be alright,
I hope and pray that he doesn't return tonight,
But from all that I hear, somehow I fear,
That man and his reindeer will be back every year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SEQUEL TO TWAS THE DAY AFTER XMAS

I received an e-mail from Santa Claus the other day
and he had this to say.

I received a copy of your poem last year,
and your complaints were well founded I fear.

I will try to explain as to what happened that night,
and I hope it will make things again alright.

Rudolph was in a bad humor I'm afraid,
He stamped his hoof and made a hole in your roof.
Snow fell in your bedroom and that certainly was proof.

As for the soot from the chimney I accept the blame,
but have you ever tried coming down a chimney and missing the
flame?

I'm sorry my pipe smoke caused you to choke,
I'm trying to quit smoking and that is no joke.

Now about the toys made in China, what can I say.

There is not much any more made in the USA.

I am sure things are going to be better this year.

It will be as it should be, lots of love and good cheer.

So with that he stopped. and then after a pause - - - - -

he ended his message with Merry Xmas,

Sincerely, Santa Claus

*Lester
Herzog
1/21/08*

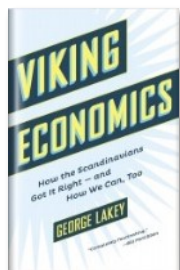
George Lakey—Program Speaker for Next Meeting

George Lakey, 83, has been traveling in his ministry for equality and nonviolence with his most recent books, *Viking Economics* (2016) and *How We Win* (2018). The paperback edition of his book *Facilitating Group Learning* will be published this summer. His first arrest was at a civil rights demonstration in March 1963, and most recent was January 10, 2020 while demanding the U.S. Congress respond to the climate crisis. He has taught at Swarthmore, Haverford, Pendle Hill, and Woodbrooke in England. A member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, he's led over 1500 social change workshops on five continents.



New paperback: *Facilitating Group Learning: Strategies for Success with Diverse Learners*. www.pmpress.org

Recent books still popular: *Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians got it right and how we can, too*. www.mhpbooks.com/books



HOW WE WIN: A Guide to Nonviolent Direct Action Campaigning.
www.mhpbooks.com/books

Select websites to visit:

Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT.org)

Columnist for WagingNonviolence.org

Global Nonviolent Action Database (nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu)

Information for Visiting Subject to Change

(see also www.salemquarter.net)

Greenwich: First Day (Sunday) Meeting for Worship: 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
October – May at **Upper Meeting House**, 720 Ye Greate Streete, Greenwich, NJ and June – September at the **Lower Meeting House**, 1064 Ye Greate Streete, Greenwich, NJ

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

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 a.m. After-words and general fellowship 10:45 a.m.,
Meeting for Learning 11:15 a.m.

Salem: East Broadway at Walnut Street, P.O. Box 7, Salem, N.J. 08079;
856-935-3381; Adult First Day School 9:30 a.m. and Children's First Day
School 10:45 a.m. Sept.-May (gathering from Meeting for Worship at
10:30 a.m.)

Seaville: 3088 Shore Road (Rte. 9, 1 mile S. of Rte. 50), Ocean View, N.J.
08230; seavillequaker.tripod.com; Worship 10:00 a.m.;
Beach meetings: Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day weather
permitting, in **Cape May** Grant St near the life guard building 9:00 a.m.,
in **Ocean City**, 23rd St and the beach 8:30 a.m.

Woodbury: 124 North Broad Street, Woodbury, N.J. 08096; 856-845-5080;
www.pym.org/meetings/meeting/woodbury-monthly-meeting; First-day
School 10:00 a.m., Worship 11:15 a.m.

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

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Next Quarterly Meeting
Sunday, March 14, 2021
Hosted by Woodstown Meeting
(via Zoom)

All times approximate:

*9:30 George Lakey: Political Polarization, Threat or
Opportunity? A Spiritually-based Perspective*

10:30 Worship

Noon Meeting for Business