



Lancaster Monthly Meeting The Religious Society of Friends

Newsletter No. 721

July 2023

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CALENDAR

First-day – 8:00 AM – Worship without Zoom

First-day – 10:00 AM – Meeting For Worship in person and by Zoom: Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89474253017?pwd=anRXUS9US1ZBQzhSZDhKcFVqT1dmdz09>

Meeting ID: 894 7425 3017

Passcode: Worship

Fourth-day – 6:45 PM – Songs before worship on Zoom. Link (same as First-day):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89474253017?pwd=anRXUS9US1ZBQzhSZDhKcFVqT1dmdz09>

Meeting ID: 894 7425 3017

Passcode: Worship

– 7:00 PM – Meeting For Worship by Zoom.

– 7:30 (approximately) – Joys & Concerns and announcements

Second First-day – 11:45 AM -Meeting For Worship For Business – except this month!

FORUMS

August 13 – Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

ACTIVITIES

Sat. July 8, 7:00 PM – Kani Xulam talks in meetinghouse (see below)

Wknd, July 14-16 – AVP Basic workshop at St. John's Episcopal (see below)

Sun. July 16, 4:30-7:00 PM – Food Truck Event (see below)

Wed.-Sun., July 26-30 – PYM Annual Sessions and Spiritual Formation retreat (see below)

Wed. August 9 – Deadline for August newsletter entries

**LANCASTER MONTHLY MEETING
THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
HELD IN PERSON AND
VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON SIXTH MONTH 11, 2023**

At about noon, Clerk Jane Cadwallader took up the business of Meeting with Margaret Wood serving as elder. The agenda was reviewed and approved and minutes for May were approved as corrected. Clerk then read the words of Margery Mears Larrabee: “A Friends Meeting is intended to be so much more than a loose association of individuals on separate and private spiritual journeys. Friends are called to be a faith community, seeking to know each other ‘in that which is Eternal’ as we journey together. Ideally, we acknowledge that our primary relationship is to God and to that of God in each other. We let go of the idea that we have only private lives and hold ourselves accountable to the authority of the Spirit in the life of the Meeting. We grow in a sense of responsibility for each other and become part of a gathered community.” (PYM's *Faith and Practice*, 2018:195). The reading was followed by worship.

Nominating Committee Final Report.

Nancy Bieber presented Nominating Committee's final report. She named the other committee members: co-convenor Martin Bradley, Will Horst, Tom Latus, Carol Shane and Tara Tappert. Unlike other committees with a single focus, Nominating holds the Meeting as a whole, considering needs and strengths and the leadings of individual Friends. Meeting approved the final report.

Nancy said Nominating's work goes on year-round. Current needs include a co-convenor for Outreach Committee and a Friend to replace Liz Gates (who will become General Secretary of Right Sharing of World Resources this year) on the liaison group to Lancaster Friends School.

Landscape Planning Committee. Jean Boal and Debby Spence presented a request from the Landscape Planning Committee. Details

of the committee's master plan for our outdoor space were presented at two recent forums, where the master plan was discussed (if you haven't seen it, ask Jean for the link). This is a 15-year plan. Its vision, as expressed in the master plan, is to expand the native plants in our landscape so it has greater ecological value, including more pervious surfaces, and will meet Friends' esthetic and spiritual needs for our outdoor space and the needs of our children and youth and those who come to Meeting by bicycle. The plan, as presented in the second forum, shows a timeline for implementation and estimated costs.

Implementation of the plan will require a substantial financial investment estimated to run between \$150,000 and \$200,000 over the 15 year period and will require a fundraising campaign in addition to some funds to come from relevant committee budgets. Since fundraising is not part of the Landscape Planning Committee's work, and since the planning has been accomplished, the committee's work has shifted to implementation of the plan. The committee needs a new name such as the Plan Implementation Committee and can continue to be under Property Committee. The financial aspects of implementation are the responsibility of Finance Committee.

Several Friends expressed the hope that the plan can be implemented in fewer than 15 years. A Friend suggested that the committee work with Lancaster Friends School to find a place in the meetinghouse to post the master plan that will not get in the way of the school's needs, and that the school could perhaps integrate the plan into its curriculum. Another Friend said these are exciting wonderful plans, providing an opportunity for nature to shine on Meeting property and creating a legacy for future Friends.

Meeting approved the landscape vision and also approved moving ahead with implementation of the plan.

Debby asked for a minute of appreciation for Kim Bair, who is a professional garden designer and a longtime Meeting

attender. Kim worked with the Landscape Committee on the vision and drew the master plan. Meeting approved.

Minute of Appreciation. Lancaster Friends Meeting is grateful to Kim Bair and thanks her for her work with the Landscape Planning Committee and especially for the Landscape Master Plan she prepared.

Youth Service/Enrichment Committee

Request. Beth Reeves presented a request from the Youth Service/Enrichment Committee for funds for Noah Fitz to go to Palestine. Noah went to the presentation at our meeting by Ali Abu Awad, who runs the AVP center in Palestine. Noah was transformed; he felt the talk was a message to him.

The Youth Service/Enrichment Committee has approved an application from Noah Fitz for a service/enrichment project this summer. He plans to go to Palestine for an 8-week stay, consisting of the following:

\$2,850 – “Go Palestine” 3-week camp for young Palestinians and Quakers; includes introductory Arabic

\$1,000 – Al Taghyeer 3-week residency with Ali Abu Awad near Bethlehem

\$1,300 – Accompaniment of 2-week AVP delegation with Joe DiGarbo and Steve Alderfer in Ramallah, Bethlehem and Jerusalem

\$750 – Airfare and ground transport to and from Tel Aviv

\$300 - Local transportation

\$6,200 TOTAL COST

Noah is applying for a grant of \$6,000. He and his family will pay for any costs above that total. Because the cost exceeds \$2,000, the Youth Service/Enrichment Committee is asking LMM to approve this project. Meeting approved.

Beth said Noah has two mentors and will make a report to Meeting.

Welcoming Dinner: Gedion Carido. Melissa Thomas-Brummé reported that on May 20 she hosted the welcoming dinner for Gedion Carido. The dinner was elegant, beautiful and meaningful. She said Gedion is a good question-asker and Friends should invite him and his marriage partner for dinner.

A Wedding. Anna Moore reported that on May 27, under the care of Lancaster Friends Meeting, Debbie Hewes and Ron Ashby exchanged their wedding vows. Present were Ron’s brother and a small group of Friends. It was a spirit-led and happy time.

Interment Guidelines. Kirk Hummel has been working on the guidelines for Memorial Garden interment. Kirk said the guidelines may be modified. Clerk will send a note of appreciation to Kirk.

Memorial Minute: Stan Carnarius. Clerk read Stan Carnarius’s memorial minute (attached to June newsletter). Jim Herr wrote the minute. Meeting approved the minute. Recording Clerk will send it to *Friends Journal*.

Memorial Minute: Joyce Collins. Tom Gates asked for volunteers to prepare a memorial minute for Joyce Collins. Tom Latus and Barbara Spiegelberg volunteered.

Correspondence. Clerk reported on correspondence. Tara Tappert thanked Meeting for funds which enabled her to attend this year’s Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology, which was a deeply meaningful experience for her. Marga Lane thanked Friends for their good wishes for her recent 80th birthday. A letter from Michael Beer informed us that Kani Xulam, a lifelong nonviolent Kurd, is on a walk for self-determination for Kurds. Xulam will be walking from York to Lancaster on July 8 and to Ephrata on July 9. A superb speaker, Xulam is available to give a talk on July 8. (More information is in the e-news and below.)

At about 1:05 pm, following worship, Clerk thanked Friends for their presence and closed meeting. There were 31 Friends present, 3 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Cadwallader, Clerk

Maria Cattell, Recording Clerk

Present: Lynn Andrews, Jean Boal, Michael Bomberger, Billie Anne & Martin Bradley, Tracy Broderick, Carl Burkholder, Jane Cadwallader, Andrea Carty Paz y Miño, Maria Cattell, Faith d'Urbano, Elizabeth & Thomas

Gates, Maria Hersey, Will Horst, Rhonda Keller, Kay Lahr, Jonathan Lind, Anna Moore, Ernest Nute, Beth Reeves, Martha Roberts, Deborah Spence, Barbara Spiegelberg, Hal & Lynn Swisher, Tara Tappert, Melissa Thomas-Brummé, Margaret Wood, Juji Woodring, Bryan Yaffe

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

KURDISTAN LAMENT – Tomorrow evening, Saturday, July 8, at 7:00, Lancaster Meeting will host a Kurdish peace activist for a talk open to the public. Kani Xulam, of the American Kurdish Information Network, is leading a walk for peace and justice, to bring attention to the plight of the Kurds. He started on July 1 at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., and intends to end his walk at the UN in NYC on July 24. That date is the centenary of the Treaty of Lausanne, the international agreement that sanctioned the dismemberment of Kurdistan. Come hear this dedicated activist talk about his people, his walk, and his dreams for dignity and liberty for all.

MEETING? NO!!! – Please note that our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for July has been cancelled. At most, there was one thing on the agenda. So, the clerk decided we can skip this month and see what happens before August 13.

PEACE CHANCE – Have you heard about the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops and wonder what they are and/or how you can be involved? Here is your opportunity. There will be a “Basic” workshop next weekend, July 14, 15, and 16, at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 321 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster.

An AVP workshop can help you: understand why conflict happens; manage strong feelings such as anger and fear; deal more effectively with risk and danger; build good relationships with other people; communicate well in difficult situations; recognize the conflict management skills you already have and learn new ones; and be true to yourself while respecting other people. For more information, and to register, please contact Joe DiGarbo: jdigarbo@gmail.com

FOOD FUN – In case you didn’t know it, Lancaster Meeting is located in the Glenbrook Community of Wheatland Hills. There is a community organization that attempts to build neighborliness in this area. Next week, Sunday, July 16, they are having a food-truck gathering. All of us are invited to participate, to meet some of our neighbors. It will take place from 4:30 to 7:00 PM at 1836 Brubaker Run Road, Lancaster. (Go back Tulane Terrace to its end at Glenbrook Ave, turn left, and immediately turn right on Brubaker Run Rd.)

YEARLY YEARLY – Philadelphia Yearly Meeting will hold its 343rd Annual Sessions from Wednesday, July 26 through Sunday, July 30. Wednesday and Thursday, Sessions are online only, using Zoom. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are hybrid—you can join online or attend in person at the College of New Jersey, just outside of Trenton. To celebrate our return to onsite gathering, PYM will subsidize the cost to attend. Tickets range from \$0-\$75, with a cap of \$100 per family. This includes food and lodging Friday-Sunday! Please register soon. Go to www.pym.org and click on the large “Learn More” button.

One of the main activities of Annual Sessions is consideration of the business of the YM. Wednesday’s meeting will be just a keynote address, “Love Thy Neighbor,” by Tucker and Sameer Manchanda. The other days will focus like this: Thursday: Interconnection; Friday: Ministry of Addressing Racism; Saturday: Addressing Climate Change; Sunday: Belonging. (The full agenda for business sessions is posted on the PYM website.)

However, there is a lot more that goes on at these Sessions. With meals together and a variety of casual activities, there will be many opportunities to meet and get to know Quakers from all over the large PYM territory. Part of the beauty of this fellowship occurs because there are people who are new attenders in their Monthly Meetings and others who have been members all their long lives. It is a time of spiritual renewal, community connection, and intergenerational worship and fellowship.

In addition, there are activities for young people of all ages grouped with others to do fun things together with other Quaker kids.

I hope to see you there—on line and/or in person.

BE MY NEIGHBOR – Several years ago, after a year or two of highly contentious PYM Annual Sessions, the Spiritual Formation Collaborative decided to hold a “retreat” on the day before Sessions started, with an invitation to all. The hope was that a group of people—even a small group—would be able to help the community maintain awareness of the Divine. And it worked. Everything went much smoother, with more love and joy. Since then the Spiritual Formation Retreat has been an annual event.

As it has been since COVID, the Retreat will be on Zoom this year. It will happen from 1:00 to 4:00 on Wednesday, 7/26, and Thursday, 7/27, from 10:00 AM to noon. Our Meeting Friend, Tom Gates, will guide the process. Please learn more and register on the PYM website: www.pym.org/sessions/spiritual-formation-retreat-program/

NOVEL THOUGHTS

LET’S ASK – The queries for Seventh Month are concerned with Peace and Alternatives to Violence:

Do we help each other face conflicts with patience, forbearance and openness to healing?

What are we doing as a Meeting within our communities to recognize and correct the causes of violence?

Do I treat personal conflict as an opportunity for growth?

MOVED – Ruby and Todd Whitmer have moved to North Carolina. Their new address is 305 Baneberry Close, 305 Fearrington Post, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

DORIS SHENK WITH SARA HERNON-REEVES

Have you ever wondered what some of the young Quakers in our community are up to after they age out of First Day School and we don’t see them around as often? When I

spoke to some of them, I learned that they have been busy learning about the world, learning about themselves, and contributing to our communities in various ways. Following is an interview with Sara Hernon-Reeves who spent a full year at QUEST in Seattle, Washington, after she graduated from college in 2016.

WHAT IS QUEST?

QUEST is a program that offers an intentional living community opportunity, free room and board, a small monthly stipend, a job in a social service field, and an opportunity to live into Quaker values such as simplicity (trying to live on a lower wage). QUEST not only admits Quakers to their program, but also admits people who are interested in learning about Quakerism. Sara explained, “I was the only Quaker in the program,” meaning she became the go-to person for her housemates when they had questions about Quakerism.

QUEST participants were encouraged to feel a part of the Quaker community in the Pacific Northwest by attending yearly and quarterly meetings and by going to the Friends Meeting that was affiliated with QUEST. Sara did note, “I wanted to go [to these meetings] but I was often so busy with work.”

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY

During her year in QUEST, Sara shared a house with five other QUEST participants. The household shared home management tasks such as weekly chores, budgeting, and grocery-shopping. They would eat at least one meal a week together. This could be “complicated – meeting everybody’s dietary needs,” she explained. House meetings were regularly scheduled as a time to check in on what was going well in the house, and to problem-solve if issues came up. Sara enjoyed the other participants in the program and those friendships have continued.

SARA’S JOB WHILE IN QUEST

During her time with QUEST, Sara worked at Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, an agency working to end homelessness through policy. First, Sara worked as a Voter Engagement organizer. Sara trained and led people to do phone banking

and door knocking to assist in electing state candidates for office who were endorsed by Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. These candidates were called, "Housing Champions."

Following the election in November 2017, Sara began working on the Resident Action project, also through Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. Sara participated in a listening tour with people in low income apartments and public housing to find out what their challenges were. She would report findings back to the policy staff who would then come up with an agenda for the legislative session. Sara also worked on training people in community organizing; helping people find their voice. This job involved "a lot of relationship-building, understanding group dynamics, and constant communication. It challenged me to be a better listener and communicator." Sara noted that this job also required a big emotional investment as it involved listening to life stories about challenges people faced with housing and then trying to get these people interested in doing the work with the Housing Alliance, for change. Sara said the community organizing job taught her that "it's okay if people can't stick around to do the work – but keep the doors open – it might evolve into something different." She also noted, "I do like talking to people" as part of her work tasks.

SARA REFLECTS ON HER EXPERIENCE

Reflecting on her experience, Sara said, "I loved it. I had never lived on the West Coast before, and this was a chance to explore a new place and meet new people." She

enjoyed the Pacific Northwest location, but there were about seven months of cloudiness/rain. The bus system in Seattle was great and public transportation is promoted. A drawback is how expensive the city is to live in. Sara noted that she learned she does enjoy meeting and talking to people and found the Resident Action project to be the most fulfilling of her work assignments. Sara said she was exposed to issues through her work: "because of tech companies, the city has grown in the past 10 years and now we see the number of homeless people skyrocket. Something big in the state needs to change or we will keep making homes for gigantic worldwide organizations instead of for people. The legislature is not taking it seriously." Sara said, "I did grow as a person and with questioning more my role in society. I have more questions to figure out; am I doing enough to create a more just society? This is hard to truly answer." She continued, "Social justice – justice in general – will be a necessary component in whatever I do."

INTERESTED IN QUEST?

Sara would recommend the QUEST program to others. To be eligible for QUEST, one must be 20 years old or older, but does not need to have a college education, though some type of experience is necessary. It is important to be able to live in intentional community. Initially there is a QUEST interview with the QUEST director, and then a site interview with the director of the job one is identified for.