



Coordinator Program to See Changes

Just prior to the Planning Committee meeting on September 18, I informed the group that I will be retiring from my job as Concord Quarterly Meeting Coordinator at the end of the fiscal year. Coupled with the possibility that next year financial support for the program from the Yearly Meeting may be reduced, or even eliminated, we realized that we are presented with a unique opportunity to review the work of the coordinator program and also the financial structure supporting it.

At present the Quarter provides about 64% of the funding for the program, and the Yearly Meeting picks up the rest. The Quarter has been looking closely at our costs for the past year. We found ourselves short of funds both last year and this year due to a combination of factors. We made cuts to costs wherever we could, and hope to cut them even more with increased use of e-mail for distribution of the newsletter. But even these measures may not be enough. If funding from the Yearly Meeting stops, we will need to find another source of income to fill the budget gap or reduce the coordinator's hours.

The latter would necessitate changes in the work currently being done by the coordinator program.

The Planning Committee decided to ask the Quarter in October to appoint a working group with a representative from each meeting to tackle the issues around the coordinator program. The working group would begin by taking on a fundamental question: Do we want a coordinator for Concord Quarter? If the answer is yes, then other questions will naturally follow, such as: What do we want, and what do we need, from a coordinator program? Once we get a handle on these, we will of necessity have to look at the ultimate question: How do we fund it? During that process, each constituent meeting's existing covenants (PYM and CQM operations and coordinator) will be disclosed to the Planning Committee and Quarterly Meeting. The release of such information was approved by the QM May 1, 2011, when it concluded that "[f]ull disclosure will hopefully help meetings recognize the importance of their contributions in the overall budget of the Quarter."

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Listening to the Land at Westtown October 23

Our Quarterly Meeting program will focus on the Westtown community's work to raise awareness of sustainability in our connection with the earth's resources. A full morning's program for middle school youth and children includes a trip to the Westtown School mini-farm led by Victoria Pearson, Westtown's Earth Literacy Teacher, and several Upper

School students. The adult program will include presentations by Paul Spiegel, Meeting member who left a vice-presidency position at a world wide engineering firm to found his own company, and Judy Asselin, Meeting member and Sustainability Coordinator and middle school teacher. See flyers on pp. 5&6 for complete schedules.

Do Quarterly Meetings Matter?

There is no question in my mind that it is the work of this Quarter, and not my work, to evaluate the coordinator program, review the job description, assess the work of the past seven years, and make decisions about what is most important going forward. I can help with this, and will be most happy to do so, but come July 1st, I will be moving on to other things. Knowing that does not keep me from having opinions about it, however. I believe whole-heartedly in strong Quarters. So do at least two of our recent General Secretaries: Arthur Larrabee, who wrote an article entitled, *Why Quarterly Meetings Matter*, published in the winter 2010 *PYM Today*; and Ed Staudt, who went around to quarterly meetings in the early 1990s encouraging them to become revitalized for the good of the whole Religious Society.

The importance of having a body of people close by who are grounded in the Spirit and understand how to be in community came home to me some 20 years ago when I was clerk of Newtown Square Meeting. I was still new to Quakerism at the time, having attended the Meeting for less than three years, when I was asked to be clerk. I joked with the Meeting later that I was accepted into membership and appointed clerk at the same meeting for business, but it is close to the truth. My hunger for spiritual growth was obvious to those around me, and when I expressed interest in attending a course on the business meeting given by Bill Taber at Pendle Hill, I got nods and knowing looks from the members and quiet murmurs of, "She's going to be our next clerk." I was fortunate to be mentored by many weighty Friends, including Anne and Tom Moore, members of Valley Meeting in Haverford Quarter. Other Friends from the Quarter gave their time and talents to Newtown Square Meeting, which at that time had a small group of people much like me: enthusiastic, but for the

most part, very new Quakers, all eager to learn and to grow and needing a great deal of nurturing.

The Quarter gave that to us, and we did grow, both in numbers and in spiritual maturity. With a lot of support from Bill, Anne, Tom and others, I learned how to listen for the Spirit in business meeting and matured as the Meeting's clerk. Anne, Tom and other members of the Quarter who had been supporting us began to attend business meeting less and less, and we took over more and more of the work of the Meeting ourselves. Then trouble hit. A squabble after worship one day between a member and a long time attender resulted in the attender's angry exit from the Meeting. Several other incidents followed, and I was faced with what looked to be a potentially explosive business meeting one particular Sunday. I happened to see Ed Staudt, then General Secretary of PYM, at a workshop the day before the business meeting. I told him about the problem, asking for his advice. His response was immediate: go to your Quarter. I did. I called Jane Kronick, Haverford Quarter clerk, as soon as I got home, and she and four others from the Quarter showed up the next morning and helped us through the business meeting, probably the most Spirit-led meeting for worship for business I ever was privileged to experience.

As you can see, my belief in the importance of strong quarters began with my own experience as clerk of a small meeting 20 years ago, but it has grown over the past seven years as I have been privileged to work with the wonderful people in Concord Quarter. During this time I have seen the Quarter and its meetings grow in strength and spiritual groundedness. I have looked around in awe at the dedication of the faithful Friends who give up Sunday evenings with their loved ones to come to Planning Committee meetings; who serve

Cont'd on next page

Notable Quaker: Edmund N. Bacon

Born in Philadelphia, Ed Bacon was a leading postwar urban planner who remade much of Philadelphia. His mark on the city was perhaps most evident in the planning of Penn Center, a huge development of Philadelphia's downtown core in the 1950's and 60's. The center, comprising offices and hotels, was the largest such project the city had seen since the 1920's. In replacing the so-called Chinese Wall, a network of elevated railroad tracks that divided the city, Bacon would eventually establish a stronger east-west spine. He added buildings to the area around 30th Street Station at the western edge of Center City. Bacon's design concepts also led to the development of Market East, Penn's Landing, Society Hill, Independence Mall and the Far Northeast. "It mixed the bulldoze-and-rebuild philosophy of urban renewal with the tentative beginnings of the historic preservation movement," Paul Goldberger wrote in *The New York Times* in 1988. Bacon closely guarded the city's structural heritage; for example, he favored maintaining a ceiling on Philadelphia building heights, honoring the tradition that no building should stand taller than 491 feet, the height of the statue of William Penn atop City Hall. "Once it's smashed, it's gone," Bacon said in 1984, opposing the building of the skyscraper One Liberty Place. At the same time, he clashed with preservationists because he demolished so much of the city to build anew.

In 2002, at age 92, he protested the ban on skateboarding in the city's LOVE Park at the eastern end of the parkway by illegally skateboarding through the



Skateboarding at Love Park

Park.

Ed Bacon died in 2005. In 2006, a state historical marker honoring his memory and commemorating his work was placed at the northwest corner of 15th Street and J.F.K. Boulevard, by LOVE Park.

Linda Fisher, WCMM

Do Quarterly Meetings cont'd from previous page

as clerk, recording clerk, and treasurer of the Quarter; who sit on Nominating Committee; who represent the Quarter at their own meetings by making reports, giving announcements, and promoting programs; who come to business meeting at 8:00 on Quarterly Meeting Sundays (not entirely without complaint!); who spend many hours working on our interesting and informative programs; and who do all the many other tasks required to knit our community together in love. And it *has* been knit together in love, nurturing all those wise enough to recognize the bounty here and dip into the pool.

Ed Staudt served as general secretary at a time when the functioning of many quarterly meetings, including our own, was low. Some considered laying themselves down. Ed saw them as a vital part of the organizational genius of George Fox, who created

the system of monthly, quarterly and yearly meetings, giving staying power to the Society. I heard Ed speak to Western Quarter and was impressed with his broad understanding. I remembered an article in the *PYM News* detailing his talk to Philadelphia Quarter and have secured permission to reprint it here (see p. 10).

In his *PYM Today* article, Arthur Larrabee encourages us to renew our vision for our quarterly meetings and identifies six reasons why they are important. He, like Ed, recognizes their seminal connection to the well-being of the entire faith community, and puts forth his own vision for their renewal, vitality and growth. Arthur's article can be read in full on the PYM website at <http://www.pym.org/sites/pym.org/files/pym-today-2010-winter.pdf>.

Beth Lawn

Circling Concord Quarter

Announcements From The Hickman

The Hickman receives first ever BLUER award

On Friday August 26, West Chester Borough Leaders United for Emissions Reduction (BLUER), on behalf of the West Chester Borough Council, presented The Hickman Friends Senior Community of West Chester the first ever 2011 BLUER Business Award for their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the environmental footprint of their facility. In giving the award they said, "Both the LEED GOLD certification and the 15,000 square foot green roof set the standard for environmental change measures that other West Chester businesses can follow. BLUER applauds The Hickman for their leadership." You can read the entire BLUER statement on their website, www.thehickman.org.

Surrey at The Hickman

The Hickman is excited to have partnered with Surrey Services for Seniors, a high quality, non-profit organization that offers a variety of programs, activities and supportive services designed to enable older adults to continue living with dignity and self-reliance in their home. For more information please see www.thehickman.org.

Artists Illumination Series and The Art of Caring

Our Artist Illumination Series features the diverse, captivating and fun works of The Hickman's twelve Art of Caring Artists. All are invited to the "Meet the Artists Reception" as part of West Chester's Gallery Walk Friday, October 7th, 2011 from 5- 8pm. Come enjoy wine, cheese and light refreshments as you enjoy the works of these beloved regional artists. Art on Exhibit October 1 - October 31, 2011, weekdays 9am-8pm, weekends 11am-7pm.

The Hickman's 8th Annual Art of Caring fundraising gala is Friday, October 14. Building on the success of the past seven years, we are planning an evening of fun, fine food & beverages, entertainment and a live and silent auction. For more information please call 484-760-6416.

Quarterly Meeting Youth Group Plans Events

Four gatherings of the newly formed QM youth group are being planned for the coming school year. Our first ever hayride, bonfire and sleepover will take place Oct. 8 at Wynnorr Farm and the Westtown School cabin. On Dec. 30 we will have a roller skating party and sleepover at West Chester Meeting. Mid-winter will see us once more square dancing and sleeping over at the Westtown School cabin, and a spring or early summer event will be planned with the guidance of the youth. All events are being held jointly with Western Quarter, offering a rich opportunity to get know young people across the wider area.

Birmingham Harvest Buffet is Locavore's Delight

Farm to Table Menu Featuring Fresh & Local Food, Vegetarian, Vegan, & Gluten Free Options. Includes pasture-raised turkey and locally grown, seasonal, organic vegetables. November 5, 3:30 - 6:00 PM at Birmingham Friends Meeting. Tickets: adults \$14 (\$15 at the door), children 12 & under free. Contact Emily Myers at 610-388-2384 or [emily at DDRinc.com](mailto:emily@DDRinc.com). Proceeds benefit local and Quaker charities.

Concord Quarterly Meeting
At
Westtown Monthly Meeting and School

October 23, 2011

Listening to the Land



8:15-8:30	Sign in
8:30-10:00	Meeting for worship for business
10:10-10:30	Hymn singing with Westtown Meeting
10:30-11:30	Meeting for worship with Westtown <i>(Middle school and children leave for program at 10:45-see next page)</i>
11:30-12:30	Program

Listening to the Land

Our programs will focus on the Westtown community's work to raise awareness of sustainability in our connection with the earth's resources. The adult program will include presentations by Paul Spiegel, who left a vice-presidency position at a world wide engineering firm to found his own company, Practical Energy Solutions, and Judy Asselin, Sustainability Coordinator and middle school teacher at Westtown School. Victoria Pearson, Westtown's Earth Literacy teacher, will take the youth and children on a trip to the School's mini farm (see next page for middle school and children's schedule).

12:30-1:30 Lunch provided by Westtown Meeting

Directions from Rte. 926: From the east, go right onto Shady Grove Way to Westtown School entrance on left; meetinghouse is on left in circle. Park in lot on right near school entrance or near meetinghouse. From the west, turn left onto Westtown Rd, then right at gate for lower school. Park in lot and walk up to the meetinghouse.

Listening to the Land

Middle School and Children's Programs

- 8:30-10:10 Explore the theme of Listening to the Land and your own spiritual journey through art and music. Bring an instrument to play! A snack will be offered.
- 10:10-10:45 Join your family for hymn sing and the first 15 minutes of worship.
- 10:45-11:30 *Walk to the mini farm.*

Westtown's Earth Literacy teacher and several Upper School students will lead a walk to the mini-farm, a two acre small farm where students learn about sustainable agriculture, doing hands-on work building soil and planting organically for harvest for the School's kitchen and community. We will explore the farm and encounter nature through worship sharing and story circles.

Break out into age-based groups

1st-4th grade students will "Walk to their own beat" as they consider their relationship to God's earth.

5th-8th grade students will discover how the Bible leads us to be good stewards of the earth.

- 11:30-12:30 Join Westtown's first day school, in age-based groups.
- 12:30-1:30 Lunch with your family.

Child care will be available all morning.

Please let us know that you will be bringing your children, and their ages, so that we may plan appropriately. Contact Beth Lawn, CQM coordinator, [concordquarter at verizon.net](mailto:concordquarter@verizon.net),

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Willistown Meeting Still Seeking Children's Religious Education Coordinator

We were blessed to have a wonderful teacher this summer who looked like she might stay, but, unfortunately for us, a new job in another state forced her to leave us prematurely. We are therefore once again looking for an inspiring, able, enthusiastic person to serve as our REC beginning immediately. Interested, qualified persons should contact a Laurie Dilzer, [lauriedilzer at comcast.net](mailto:lauriedilzer@comcast.net), 436-5730; or 484-459-9814.

PYM Meeting on Worship and Ministry at Birmingham

You are invited to join the next Gathering of PYM's Meeting on Worship and Ministry on Sat. Oct. 22, 9-3:30. This is an opportunity to worship together with a concern for the vitality of the spirit in our lives, our meetings, and the wider PYM Community. Every Friend is invited to come together to seek the Peace and Spirit of God that unites us. We look forward to a day of communion in the Spirit that nurtures, heals, and leads to deep faithfulness and understanding. Please contact Connie Eash at cneash@gmail.com or 610-274-0947 for more information or to request childcare.

**Concord Quarterly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Held at Willistown Monthly Meeting
July 24, 2011**

Meeting began with a period of silent worship. Clerk Charles Spadoni welcomed everyone. There were 30 Friends in attendance. Friends welcomed visitors and Friends new to Quarterly Meeting. Friends from Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown, and Wilmington were present. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Ron Ploeg. The financial statements for the Quarter ending June 30 were distributed and reviewed. The projected revenues and expenses for 2011-2012 fiscal year were distributed. A question arose if additional gifts of support have been made by any meeting. Two meetings did contribute additional funds and other meetings are committed to giving in the coming year. In this budget, each Monthly Meeting is requested to increase their support of the Quarter Coordinator by \$500. Friends agreed to hold over approval for both the Quarter's budget and lifting the suspension on the Tuition Endowment Fund. Monthly meetings are asked to reaffirm their covenants. Friends accepted the report, minuting their gratitude for Ron's hard work over the past year.

Discernment of what the Quarter should do in the future was led by Charles Spadoni. He asked Friends to consider the following queries: What are the direction and activities that the Quarter should undertake in the next year? What is your heart's desire for us as a Quaker community? What takes you deeper into connection with others? What would you like to see happen in the Quarter in the next 12 months? Next 24 months? What programs, projects, fun activities would speak to your condition?

A Friend desires more engagement and outreach, that we find more ways to enjoy being together. The Quarter needs more intellectual activities in addition to the silence of worship. Monthly meetings do much of their work individually, but to be as effective as possible, meetings must work together as a Quarter. Programs should be devised to utilize our strengths in all eight monthly meetings of the Quarter to grow our community. A Friend expressed the wish for more people to be present at each Quarterly meeting for business. The work the Quarter is doing is real, enriching, and relevant. A Friend hoped the Quarter will be mindful of simplicity and that the Quarter not burden itself unnecessarily with additional positions or responsibilities. A Friend asked if we were doing enough for our Young Friends. How do we engage with other Friends, young and old, about our spiritual journeys; are we comfortable talking about it, and are we grounded ourselves so that we may reach out to others inside and outside our community? We must be prepared ourselves. A Friend felt we must do better at reporting the energy and enthusiasm of Quarterly Meeting back to our monthly meetings. One cannot be a Quaker alone, nor can our monthly meetings function alone without the Quarter, we must stay relevant to the monthly meetings since in coming together, we can support each other. A Friend asked how do we reach our inactive members and reengage them? Coming to Quarterly Meeting may start the connection, but participating in committee work deepens a Friend's spirituality and connection to the Quarter. A Friend encouraged us to use stories about ourselves and our spiritual journeys to achieve something better for ourselves. The stories are uplifting and bring encouragement to others to strive higher. The Quarter needs more public events such as a small Quaker Quest for example. We need to bring youth to hear from older Friends about why they came to Quakerism. We must find ways to share our light with others outside of our faith community. The Quarter could have recommended books and host discussions.

The Hickman report was presented by Henry Alexander, vice chair of The Hickman. The report is attached to the minutes in their entirety. A Friend asked what percentage of those living at The Hickman are Quaker. The response was 19 percent; many are members of West Chester or another meeting in the Quarter. Another asked, in what ways has The Hickman retained its Quaker roots? A minimum of fifty one percent of

Minutes cont'd from previous page

the board must be Quaker, The Hickman's mission continues to be to serve seniors of low and moderate income and board decisions are done in Quaker fashion, not by voting. Friends congratulated The Hickman on the successful completion of the Mary Taylor building and minuted their gratitude for the hard work and accomplishments of The Hickman board, volunteers, and staff over the past year. Friends accepted the report.

Nominating Committee report was presented by Sallie Jones. The committee recommends Ed Dunlop, West Chester Meeting, to serve on the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee. **Friends approved.**

Joys and Challenges In January 2010's meeting for business, Friends approved requesting a less than five minute response to two queries: "What were your greatest joys and challenges this past year and what are your hopes for the next?" The host meeting and a meeting that does not host during the year will be asked to respond.

Willistown's Response The meeting is challenged to find a new first-day school coordinator. The meeting has had tremendous success with their first day school program, benefiting from a grant received from the Yearly Meeting. The meetinghouse lead paint was removed and it was repainted.

Concord's Response was given by Valery Peery. They have completed installing a new roof on the meetinghouse. They engage with the historical groups of the region giving tours to introduce visitors to Quakers. They continue to be challenged with attendance with only a handful of active members.

Announcements

The next meeting of the Quarter's Planning Committee is 7:30pm at The Hickman on August 7th.
Website announcement (Rich)

West Chester Meeting is searching for a new meeting secretary (half-time)

Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted, John Lavin, Recording Clerk
Charles Spadoni, Clerk

The Hickman Annual Report to the Concord Quarter July 12, 2011

Mary Taylor House

The most exciting news from The Hickman is that the Mary Taylor House is open and all 60 units are occupied. Demolition of the C. Gilbert Hazlett building began in January 2010 with construction following shortly thereafter. One year later, on January 7, 2011, the first residents moved in. By mid-March – 3 months ahead of schedule – Pennrose Management had processed and approved applications for all 60 units. There is a waiting list of future residents. Mary Taylor House residents are very pleased with their apartments and the community areas of the buildings. The Hickman has started a meal program that allows Mary Taylor House residents to dine in the Hickman dining room or to purchase take-out meals. Residents are also invited to participate in many of the activities provided to Hickman residents. One of the many environmentally friendly features of the Mary Taylor House is the green roof. It has been planted and is growing. We scored high enough to receive Gold LEED Certification. In addition, the Mary Taylor House was honored in Washington, D.C., with the Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Award.

Surrey @ The Hickman

The second piece of exciting news is that The Hickman has joined with Surrey Services for Seniors to form Surrey @ The Hickman. This new venture will allow us to provide affordable home care services to residents of the Mary

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The Hickman Cont'd from previous page

Taylor House who request them, and to residents in the five West Chester zip codes. As the business grows, Surrey @ The Hickman will branch out into other parts of the Greater West Chester area. We currently are in the process of hiring an Executive Director for Surrey @ The Hickman. This person will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of this not for profit corporation. Services offered will include transportation, information and referral services, home care, daily money management, home maintenance, social and educational activities, and consignment and downsizing assistance.

Sharpless Hall Replacement

Now that the Mary Taylor House is open and Surrey @ The Hickman is about to launch, our Strategic Planning Committee is turning its attention to the replacement of our Sharpless Hall building. There are many important decisions to be made, including the type of facility that will be built, the scope of care that will be offered and how to proceed with the least disruption to the lives of our residents and staff members. The Hickman Annual Report to the Concord Quarter Page 2 of 3 July 2011

Quaker Block

Representatives from West Chester Monthly Meeting, the Friends School and The Hickman continue to hold Quaker Block meetings. Members of the Meeting, John Schwab and members of the Friends School meet regularly and are very close to reaching an agreement on the lease on the Hickman Memorial Building. This lease should be signed in the very near future.

Staffing

Evan Moletteri has joined EMS and serves as our Director of Plant Operations. Nancy Wilkinson, who has worked in the capacity of Volunteer Coordinator for The Hickman and Supportive Services Coordinator for the Mary Taylor House has left The Hickman. Jen Mitman, previously our Activities Coordinator, is being promoted to Activities Manager and will coordinate activities and volunteers for The Hickman and coordinate supportive services at the Mary Taylor House. Jeff Ransom, who has been with The Hickman for 22 years, received a promotion from afternoon/evening reception to Administrative Assistant to our Vice President, Marilee Mohr, and our Business Manager, Paula Carman. In addition, Jeff continues in his role as Security Supervisor. Jerome Richmond has joined The Hickman, taking over Jeff's role in afternoon/evening reception. The Resident Care career ladder program has been implemented and is very successful Three Resident Care staff members have been identified to participate at Level 3, the top level in the program, and their responsibilities reflect this. Other Resident Care staff members participate at Levels 1 and 2 with the opportunity to move up the ladder as they become more skilled.

Marketing and Admissions

As more inquiries about The Hickman come via online internet search, we continue to upgrade our internet presence with search engine optimization and a search engine marketing campaign. We continually update our website - www.TheHickman.org. Residents continue to enter The Hickman older, at an average age of 86, and in more immediate need of personal care assistance. This contributes to the continual need to tailor our activities and program of services. This also contributes to the fact that the average length of stay of a resident is approximately 3 years. Our occupancy rate has been running at 95 – 97%.

Governance

The Hickman's Board of Managers is currently made up of 18 members, the majority of them Quaker. Bob Adams is in his second year as Board Chair. The Governance Committee continues to evaluate the needs of The Hickman and to seek qualified individuals to serve on the Board.

Development

The Hickman had the best fundraising year ever in 2010. Highlights include: Total charitable contributions of \$1,286,508 (includes 2 bequests totaling nearly \$1M). Grant proposals funded totaled \$135,000, which equal a 67% approval rate (average industry is 15 – 20%). Exceeded financial goal by 20%. Added 118 new donors (approximately 25% increase in donor base). Exceeded goal of Art of Caring by 10%. Exceeded goal of Fall Appeal (for resident assistance) by 60%.

Respectfully submitted, Henry Alexander, Vice-Chair, The Hickman Board of Managers

Quarterly meetings: alive...but how well are they?

What's working and what isn't? Re-evaluating roles and responsibilities

[Editors' note: This article has been reprinted from the December 1990 *PYM News* with permission. Original syntax, format and punctuation in the heading and body have been for the most part preserved.]

Many modern Friends regard quarterly meetings as a relic of the horse and buggy days. Edwin E. Staudt, III, General Secretary of the Yearly Meeting, is convinced that this is not the case. Following are his remarks to Philadelphia QM, held at Frankford MM on Oct 7 [1990], as summarized by Esther Murer of Central Philadelphia MM.

George Fox's most original contribution was his genius for organization. In a climate where religious enthusiasm ran so high that energy tended to dissipate, it was Fox's creation of the system of monthly, quarterly and yearly meetings which gave staying power to the Society.

In Fox's conception, the quarterly meetings had two major functions: 1) care of widows and orphans (quarters are still involved in care for the aged and education of Quaker children), and 2) discernment when monthly meetings are embroiled in issues that they can't settle. In many quarters this function has fallen by the wayside.

Although there are more functioning quarterly meetings in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting than in all other Northeastern yearly meetings combined, their functioning has been seriously vitiated. Interestingly, the past decade or two has seen a parallel trend among mainstream denominations toward eliminating the middle level between the bishopric (or whatever) and the local parish. The result has been the same as in PYM: a widespread sense of isolation and frustration, with individuals and local parishes feeling powerless to have any impact on the central body.

Strengthening the quarters would alleviate much of the frustration experienced by monthly meetings which perceive the yearly meeting as distant and uncaring, and would enable more efficient use of

yearly meeting resources. The yearly meeting simply can't work one-on-one with 103 separate monthly meetings. It can provide band aids but it does not and cannot have the wherewithal to provide regular on-site support for small, struggling meetings. It *could* provide such support for our 13 quarters, which would in turn support their constituent monthly meetings.

Over-localization and under-regionalization are barriers to community life, just as a large monthly meetings suffers from lack of a healthy small-group life. The quarterly meeting is a small group of monthly meetings which share a common environment and common concerns, while enriching each other by their diversity. The meetings within a quarter have different strengths and weaknesses, and can benefit by sharing resources and experience.

Concerns of all sorts are a form of wealth which we need to share. A quarterly meeting should provide advocacy for needs of local Friends and help to identify available resources. The quarter as well as the yearly meeting can provide an outlet for the witness of individuals from monthly meetings too weak to make their own witness. For the quarterly meeting to bring a monthly meetings' concern to Representative Meeting [now Interim Meeting] has more impact than for the monthly meeting to bring it directly.

Representative Meeting is historically not a committee but a meeting for worship for business. It has evolved into committee-like direction through filling the vacuum left by the inactivity of quarterly meetings, which should properly be pre-sifting many of the matters which are now brought before it. The spiritual life of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting suffers as a result.

We must re-learn that the Religious Society of Friends is our spiritual community. Self-sufficiency of monthly meetings is not the way to wholeness. Revitalized quarterly meetings are essential to rebuilding the bridge between our yearly meeting and the grass roots.

CQM Calendar of Events: Pull Out and Post

October

- 2 The World's Dirtiest Secret: Slavery
11:00 (rise of meeting), Willistown Meeting. Presentation and photos by Carol Metzker.
- 7 Meet the Artists Reception: *The Hickman's Own Artists*
6-8:00 p.m., The Hickman. Artists Illumination Series, See p. 4 for details.
West Chester Friends School Fourth Annual Art Festival
Meet the Artists Reception & Silent Auction beginning at 5:30 as part of the West Chester Gallery Walk; Oct. 8-9, Sales and Exhibit 10 -3. Call 610-696-2820 or go to www.wcfriends.org, News & Events.
- 8 Hayride and Bonfire and Middle School Sleepover
6-8pm, hayride and bonfire for middle school and families, sleepover at Westtown cabin for middle school.
- 14 The Art of Caring
6:30-10:30 p.m., The Hickman, annual fundraising event. See p. 4 for details.
- 21 Harmony on the Hill Presents Sarah Lee Guthrie and Johnny Irion
7 p.m., Wilmington Meeting. Suggested donation \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Free for children 12 and under. To reserve tickets e-mail Ed Betz at ebet50@mail.com.
- 22 PYM Meeting on Worship and Ministry
9-3:30, Birmingham Meeting. See p. 6 for details.
- 23 Quarterly Meeting at Westtown
8:15 am-1:30 pm, Listening to the Land. See pp.1, 5&6 for details.

November

- 5 Harvest Buffet
3:30 - 6 PM, Birmingham Meeting, delicious selection of local foods, profits donated to local Friends' organizations. See p. 4 for details and ticket information.
- 6 Planning Committee Meeting
7:30-9 p.m. The Hickman living room.
- 12 Fall Clean Up
8-12, The Hickman. Contact Jen Mitman, 484-760-6306 or jmitman@thehickman.org.

December

- 2 Old Fashioned Christmas
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Here at The Hickman we're staying warm and enjoying the new season that is upon us! Please join residents, friends and family for caroling and holiday treats! Children of all ages welcome!
- 7 Holiday Bazaar
9-2, The Hickman. Contact Jen Mitman, 484-760-6306, jmitman@thehickman.org if you can volunteer.
- 18 Carol Sing
7 pm, Birmingham Meeting. All are invited to join us as we sing holiday favorites. Santa will visit to pick up this year's giving tree gifts. After the singing, we will share cookies and punch. Bring a plate of cookies to share! Bring a friend or neighbor!
- 30 Middle School Roller Skating Party and Sleepover
West Chester; details to come.

January

- 22 Quarterly Meeting at Wilmington

Beth Lawn, Editor
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Clerk: Charles Spadoni
Asst. Clerk: Rich Ailes
Recording Clerk: John Lavin
Treasurer: Ron Ploeg
Coordinator: Beth Lawn

Address Service Requested

Concord Quarter Meetings

Birmingham
Concord
Goshen
Middletown
West Chester
Westtown
Willistown
Wilmington

Coordinator's Report

Middle School, children and family events are in the forefront of planning for the month of October. Our first ever hayride and bonfire will take place at Wynnorr Farm in Edgmont Township, which has been in the Quaker Stratton family (Middletown Meeting) for generations. The middle school youth will have a sleepover following at the Westtown School cabin. Quarterly Meeting at Westtown Oct. 23rd promises to be rich for all ages, with a full program for children and youth (see pp. 1, 5&6) to complement the adult program theme, *Listening to the Land*. The youth will be back together again Dec. 30th when we go roller skating and sleepover at West Chester Meeting.

A project for a Concord Quarterly Meeting YouTube video is underway. The intention is to function like an ad to promote the modernity of local Quakers and Quaker Meetings in our Quarter. Come dressed in your best for Quarterly Meeting in case Audra Supplee points her camera your way!

The Planning Committee has suggested that I make up a schedule for meeting visits and publish it in the newsletter. Any plans made far in advance are subject to change, of course, but my intention for the next quarter is to follow this schedule:

October: 2-Willistown; 9- Westtown (morning after sleepover); 23-Westtown (Quarterly Meeting).

November: 6-Birmingham (business meeting); 20-Middletown and Goshen (bus. mtgs.); 27-West Chester

December: 4-Concord; 11-Wilmington (bus. mtg.)

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