

# Concord Quarterly News

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 3 July 2013

## Following a Leading—Traveling in the Ministry in Great Britain

by Thomas Swain of Middletown Monthly Meeting

For the last eight years I have regularly traveled to Great Britain to be amongst Friends. Quakers have been receptive to my concern about Spirit given gifts - those abilities we each have that are meant to support or nurture the community. This year I felt a calling to travel among British Friends to share my concern. Middletown Friends united in this concern and allowed me to travel in ministry for three months in the United Kingdom.

An independent Quaker group, Kindlers, based in London sponsored my visits to local Meetings. The Kindlers began Quaker Quest and other events to nurture life in Meetings. Under their sponsorship, about 15 Meetings responded with invitations for me to visit them to offer a full-day workshop for their members. I traveled the breadth of Great Britain from Brighton to Edinburgh and Hull to Warrington.

The typical workshop ran for about 6 hours that included a lunch break. We began with worship and a Quaker story about gifts. We would then have an interactive activity that allowed Friends to affirm each other's strengths. We shared a reading together from First Corinthians 12 where Paul describes how gifts work within a community. Several other affirming activities were done and

this was followed with queries that asked how they would like to be nurtured for the gifts they had. We would end with suggestions of how they might engage their gifts to help them grow in their own wholeness, share their gifts within the Meeting community to strengthen it, or how they might discover gifts to restore or rebuild the outside world.

In this work, Friends expressed appreciation for being together. They generally felt a transformative experience that enabled them to move on. One Meeting endorsed the traveling minute with these remarks. *"Thomas visited us yesterday at Redland Meeting, in Bristol UK, and led 27 of us in a workshop on Using Our Spiritual Gifts. Though it is not always an easy matter for us to recognize, name and affirm our own and each other's gifts, Thomas, by his persistence, the example of his own humility, and the power of his message, had us using it by the end of the day. By the conclusion, we had shared food, cracked jokes, sometimes been profound, and discovered new strength, more love, and deep glimpses of our own true nature. (Ian Beeson, Clerk, Redland Local Meeting).*

I look forward to reporting on my travel in ministry at Quarterly and Yearly Meeting

## Meeting for Worship In Gothenburg, Sweden

by Pete Lane of Westtown Monthly Meeting

On one of my Wednesday afternoon gigs as a tour guide at 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch Street Meeting House, a couple came in to have a look around. We always ask where people are from and it turned out that they were Swedish and from my wife Juliet's home town, Gothenburg. What a nice surprise for me.

The young man, Tobias Persson, and I exchanged email addresses and have kept in touch.

Fast-forward to Monday, 4/29, and Juliet and I were on the plane to Gothenburg, so that she could attend the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion of her graduating class.

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## Meeting for Worship in Gothenburg, Sweden, continued from pg 1

Part of the time was spent visiting with Juliet's brother and his family, a lot was spent walking in the sunny and almost-spring warmth, and on a lovely afternoon we went to the spectacular Liseberg amusement park with one of Juliet's friends who is quite close to us. Thanks to Tobias, we made contact with Tricia Nilsson who is the convenor for the Quaker folks there. She provided good directions to their meeting place. It's a former school building and an easy walk from the streetcar stop. Thus on Sunday, May 5, we were welcomed. We were about 12 people ranging in age from mid-twenties to eighties. These folks may not actually be registered members of Swedish Yearly Meeting but find what Friends have to offer speaks to their needs. Their worship practice is the same as ours, unprogrammed. The time was about 45 minutes and messages ranged over concerns for peace as well as comparisons with the other religious traditions that they knew. Some of them spoke in Swedish and some in English. Tricia Nilsson is an American who makes her home there in

Gothenburg. She said that she had lived in Christiana, PA, attended Sadsbury MM and knows people in London Grove Meeting. Alas, we didn't learn her maiden name. There was tea and biscuits with lots of conversation afterwards. We were lucky that they hold their Meetings on the first Sunday of the month.

Lutheranism was the state church in Sweden for a long time but now other faiths, including Quakerism, are recognized. Juliet and I were married, in 1967, in the Lutheran church right near her family's home. I had a lot of help in understanding what I was agreeing to in that ceremony but all I had to say was, "Ja". I was glad to do that and continue to be glad I did it. The minister who married us, a family friend, knew about Quakers through the AFSC's feeding programs in Europe after World War II.

It was a lovely week in Gothenburg and included the First of May, which is a big deal in Sweden.

## Friends Counseling Service: High Quality Therapy With Reasonable Costs

*by Kenneth Brick of Wilmington Monthly Meeting*

Figuring out how, when, whether and from whom to get therapy can be a daunting question. There are more options than ever. One can be overwhelmed by the different degrees, orientations, and backgrounds of available therapists. In addition, the need or decision to engage psychiatry and consider pharmacology can be equally grand. Finally, the cost itself can feel out of reach for many of us in today's tough economic times. So, what to do if one determines it might be time for professional intervention with our struggles? For those of us who are members or attenders within Philadelphia Yearly Meeting where to begin can actually be quite easy.

The Friends Counseling Service is currently a stalwart crew of 13 highly trained, licensed and, most importantly, experienced, therapists in private practice in our geographic area.

What's better yet is that these are not only trained therapists but all are "Friends" grounded in Quaker spirit and culture. A simple phone call to the Service is entirely confidential and costs nothing. This is a tremendous resource for individuals, couples, families and youth in our Community. To call the Service one

does not necessarily need be ready for therapy but may call with associated questions.

Friends Counseling Service is well known in some Quaker Quarters but as new members and attenders come into our midst there are many who are yet unaware of this easily available resource. For nearly 70 years the Service has been staffed with professional therapists committed to providing quality and confidential therapy at reasonable rates. As the Service is committed to turning away no one within our Community - significant subsidies have been raised to assist those who qualify. It is impressive that both funding groups as well as Meetings amongst us have continually contributed to this Service keeping it solvent even in tough economic times.

All therapists licensed by the Friends Counseling Service are affiliated with psychiatry and can help access resources for medical (psychiatric) assessment if indicated. Anyone with any questions about the Service or interested in investigating therapy for themselves or a loved one may make a confidential inquiry:

**Ken Brick, LCSW, Coordinator of Friends Counseling Service of PYM at: 302-655-8101 (Wilmington DE Office) or inquire @ [Friendscounseling@pym.org](mailto:Friendscounseling@pym.org)**

# Concord Quarterly Meeting

July 21<sup>st</sup> 2013

at

## Willistown Monthly Meeting

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8:30-8:45	Sign-in
8:45-10:00	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (Nursery Care will be available 8:45-12:15) Youth Program (From 8:45-12:15--See Below For More Information)
10:15-11:00	“Turning Leadings Into Action”
11:15-12:15	Meeting For Worship (Youth Will Join From 11:15-11:30)
12:15	Lunch

### “Turning Leadings Into Action”

This program will take the follow query under consideration:  
How can Friends take action individually to change our world?  
Speaker yet to be confirmed.

### Youth Programs: Elementary and Middle School

The Youth Programs at July Quarterly Meeting will be provided for both Elementary and Middle School aged children!

For the younger children: A program with Laurie Dilzer and the Willistown Meeting First Day School Committee. Activities to be determined.

For the older children: A program with Carol Metzker (author of *Facing the Monster: Slavery Then and Now*). Children will explore how to take action when confronted with something in the world that they feel compelled to change. They will learn from Carol’s experience and will discuss how even small actions can have a larger impact on the world.

Encourage your entire Meeting, including the First Day School, to come to Willistown!

**Location:** Willistown Monthly Meeting is located at 7069 Goshen Rd Newtown Square PA 19355. Please see the map on the Quarter’s website at: <https://concordquarter.squarespace.com/meeting-maps/>

# Concord Quarterly Meeting Calendar of Events

## June-July

### 25 Lake Supper at Westtown School Lake

We hold these suppers every Wednesday. Participants should bring enough of something (a dinner dish or a dessert) to share and your own dining plates, utensils and napkins. We gather for grace and dinner at 6:30. Beverage and cups will be provided by host families. Picnic site is the East Shack on the south shore of the Westtown School Lake. Friends and neighbors are welcome to join us! In case of rain we will be in the lower level of the Meeting House.

### 30-6 Friends General Conference Gathering

Join Friends from across North America for a week of fellowship. See the FGC website for more information. <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>

## July

### 18 Family Film Night with Western Quarter

See <https://concordquarter.squarespace.com/quartercalendar/> for more information .

### 21 Concord Quarterly Meeting at Willistown Meeting

See flyer for details.

### 24-28 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions

See the PYM website for more information. <http://www.pym.org/annual-sessions-2013/>

### 31 Family Film Night with Western Quarter

See <https://concordquarter.squarespace.com/quartercalendar/> for more information.

## August

### 4 Planning Committee Meeting

7:30 pm at The Hickman.

### 10 Birmingham's Annual Chicken BBQ

You are invited to Birmingham's Annual Chicken BBQ for chicken, local corn and tomatoes, homemade coleslaw and more and enjoy live bluegrass music! Tickets may be purchased or reserved by contacting Deb Sparre at 610.696.4117 or [Debra@Sparre.us](mailto:Debra@Sparre.us) You can also call the meetinghouse directly at (610) 793-1734. Event from 4-7pm

Check out Concord Quarter's website for an up-to-date calendar!  
<https://concordquarter.squarespace.com/quartercalendar/>

**Concord Quarterly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**Held at West Chester Monthly Meeting**  
**April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

Meeting began with a period of silent worship. Rich Ailes welcomed everyone. There were 23 Friends in attendance. The Meeting welcomed visitors Janet and Thom Olszewsky from Sarasota Florida. Friends from Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Middletown, West Chester, and Westtown were present. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

**Threshing Session Minute on Tuition Endowment Fund** was read by Rich Ailes.

A Friend brought a concern regarding the fund continuing to evenly distribute versus using a needs based distribution. This was discussed in threshing and felt sticking with a grant approach was best at this time.

A Friend was concerned about getting a minute from a Threshing Session and not the diverse inputs that the session wrestled over. The threshing session did grow the minute out of the body. At the end of meeting, the sense of the meeting was this minute.

Friends approved the following revised minute:

Friends were united that the Quarter's current leading on the Tuition Endowment Fund is as follows:

- The Quarter's Tuition Endowment Fund (TEF), currently at Friend's Fiduciary, will continue to be maintained as a granting vehicle for the Quarter's Quaker students while they are attending primary and secondary Quaker schools.
- The Quarter will ask Monthly Meetings to contribute to this fund as they are led.
- The first priority regarding this fund will be to grow the endowment
- The second priority will be to provide evenly distributed grants to all students requesting aid. For the first few years the grants will be smaller. The choice to evenly distribute grants versus a distribution being based on need will be reconsidered in three years.
- For simplicity and transparency, all funds received from monthly meetings will be sent to the TEF, and only the distributions from the TEF will be used for student grants.
- This process will be evaluated after 3 years at the April 2016 Quarterly Meeting.
- The Quarter will encourage increased contributions from monthly meetings and individual Friends to grow the TEF.
- Representatives of the Quarter will meet with a few heads of the local Quaker schools in regard to how they allocate financial aid and how our aid impacts student's other financial aids. Bruce James and Erica Young agreed to assist.
- The Quarter will form a committee to support efforts to grow the endowment. Michael Wajda, Bruce James, and Ed Dunlop agreed to help.

**A Workshop on Quaker Business Practice** was proposed by Rich Ailes. There are many new Friends in our Quarter and Birmingham Monthly Meeting felt that the Quarter would benefit from a workshop on how business meetings and committee function. Friends approved holding this workshop. A suggested name was "Decision making among Friends". A Friend suggested Deborah Fisch as a facilitator.

**Treasurer's Report** was given by Bruce James. Cash flow is good, and the Quarter has six months reserve to pay the Quarter expenses. Contributions are within 4% of the budget. Operating expenses are on budget. Much of the Operating budget is dedicated to printed copies of the newsletter. Approximately \$6,000 will be available for student grants. There are only 14 applications for student grants this year.

A Friend was concerned that the drop in grant requests might be due to Friends not being aware it is available.

Meetings should make sure that Friends know about the grant. Friends gratefully accepted the report.

**West Chester and Birmingham's Joys and Challenges** were reported and are attached to the minutes.

**Report on Quarter Website Relocation** was given by Rich Ailes. The Quarter has moved off of PYM's website. The url is: <http://concordquarter.squarespace.com>. The service for the website will cost \$20 per month. The Quarter will have its own domain name soon.

**Coordinator's Report** was given by Averyl Hall and is attached to the minutes.

A handout titled "**Visioning New Fire with the Kindlers**" was shared. The clerk asked Friends to consider if the Quarter should pay to send a person to the event. The event will be held in October at the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in England. Friends were interested in sending someone to the event, preferably a younger Friend. Friends approved the planning committee to work on finding a Friend for the event and raising the funds necessary for the trip. Friends approved the clerk and planning committee to create a minute of travel for the Quarter once the Friend has been identified.

**Announcements:**

The annual Tubing on Brandywine event will be held at Mary Ellen Clendenin's home on June 22<sup>nd</sup> from noon to about 4pm.

Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Lavin  
Recording Clerk

Rich Ailes  
Clerk

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**Coordinator's Report**

Averyl Hall

Since my report in January I have been busy with a variety of activities. We had a wonderful Square Dance hosted by Willistown Meeting. I spent a day at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's offices in Philadelphia. At that session I met other Quarterly Meeting Coordinators and learned about what services the Yearly Meeting provides and ways that they can be supportive of Quarterly Meeting activities. I have been attending Meetings for Worship and Meetings for Business at various meetings. I learned about clerking at a workshop at Willistown and heard about some of the struggles and joys that Meetings have in their business practices. The Quarter had a called session about the Tuition Endowment Fund and came to a proposal to be approved at this Quarterly Meeting.

There was a desire expressed to hold a sleepover at this Quarterly Meeting with Western Quarter. However, there were not enough registrations for the event to occur. I believe that there is energy around having youth events, and I will be working to have events be known well in advance of when they occur. I am in discussion with Zac Dutton, coordinator for Western Quarter, to discuss dates for youth events for our Quarters for the next year.

**Birmingham's Joys and Concerns**

Probably the biggest concern for Birmingham, as well as for most Meetings, is growing our membership. We feel as if most of our challenges: meeting our budget, finding people for opening exercises, filling committee rosters, to name a few, would fade with a larger membership. Many committees are working to address this need. Worship and ministry has sent out post cards to new neighborhood residents. Oversight and Pastoral Care has a special emphasis this year on reaching out and engaging adult children of members. We have formed a Website and Communication working group to enhance our presence in the wider world.

A vibrant First Day school is often the biggest way to enhance membership and our current First Day school

program is a great Meeting joy. Although the population is not large, the young families are very committed to the community. Attendance is consistent so the continuity and sense of family among the children is strong. The children attend the first fifteen minutes of worship before their lessons. They return during announcements to tell the Meeting about their lesson that day. We all love hearing this participation with our entire community. During the summer the children meet at the Quarry Swim Club which is another way of fostering a sense community among the children.

### **West Chester's Joys, Hopes, and Challenges**

We have many joys here at West Chester Meeting. We have a lovely green space that we worked with the other members of the Quaker Block—The Hickman and West Chester Friends School—to keep, and will continue to work to improve.

We are blessed to have the School as a partner in drawing families to the Quaker Block, to help in the School's guidance through Meeting members on its Board, and to be actively involved in the search for a new Head of School. We have been blessed during current Head Matt Bradley's twelve years' tenure to have had Melinda Bradley's steady hand and creative vision leading our Youth Religious Education committee.

In the last year we held a series of sessions with the Meeting Enrichment Group from PYM that has brought us together in a deeper and stronger way. Several exciting new things have already happened as a direct result of those sessions. Most important, we have formed a new Finance Committee to provide oversight as we work toward the greater the financial sustainability of our Meeting. We have also established a web site to help us in communications and outreach.

While the number of our members has remained basically the same, we see this as a joy because of the number of new families that have become members or regular attenders.

It is our hope that we will continue to feel the deep sense of community that has enriched our Meeting though out the years. We have started to feel more of a desire to reach out to people in the West Chester community who may be seeking a spiritual home, and we hope that by following this leading we will be able to offer them the home they seek.

Our challenges are many, as with any faith organization. We will need to continue to be careful with the resources that we have, and to search out appropriate ways of finding new resources—including identifying and nurturing the gifts our members and attenders bring to our Meeting. We must also be careful not to become so entangled in the desire to seek greater numbers that we lose the sense of community that draws us together in love.

## **Do you have something you would like to share with the Quarter? Share it in the Quarterly Meeting Newsletter!**

Concord Quarterly Meeting's Newsletter is published four times a year: January, April, July and October. Deadlines for submissions the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, March, June, and September. E-mail submissions to concordquarter at pym.org.

### **July Coordinator's Report**

Given that the Youth Sleepover that was planned for April Quarterly Meeting needed to be cancelled because of a lack of registrations, much of my time since then has been spent thinking about the Youth Committee and the Youth Group and what it should look like. I have spent time in discussion with the Quarter's Planning Committee about ways to move forward with youth events in a way that best uses the time and energy that exist within the Quarter. A few of the solutions to this question that have risen up in

these discussions is to meet on an as needed basis to brainstorm events, to have events be publicized far in advance, and to have the Coordinator be the main organizing force behind these events.

I have been traveling from Meeting to Meeting and sitting in on Business Meetings. I continue enjoy getting to know each meeting.

As well, I have been continuing to be in touch with other Quarter Coordinators to learn about co-hosting events.

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**Volume 9, Issue 3 July 2013**

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Recording Clerk: John Lavin  
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Concord Quarter Meetings

Birmingham  
Concord  
Goshen  
Middletown  
West Chester  
Westtown  
Willistown  
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