

Agenda  
for  
January Western Quarterly Meeting  
Hosted by  
Kennett Monthly Meeting  
Sunday, January 22, 2006

**Program: "Suing for Peace" Quaker author and attorney Jim Kimmel's creative solutions and his spiritual journey from corporate lawyer to lawyer for peace.**

**For Youth:** Clay Fun at Crosslands- Youth- and adult-friendly clay activity; creations will be fired, also. Wear or bring a "smock" (or old shirt).

- 9:00 – Greetings & registration, Tea & coffee; Carpool assembles-9:15  
9:30 – Meeting for Worship; & Carpool leaves for Crosslands  
~brief break~  
10:30 - *Suing for Peace; and Trials in our Daily Lives*, James Kimmel, Jr., Quaker attorney, author and leader in integrating law and spirituality.  
11:30 – Meeting for Worship for Business:  
- Center in silence  
12th Query and Responses  
Approval of October WQ Meeting Minutes; review of Agenda  
Treasurer's Report  
Committee Reports  
Western Quarter, Inc. – Penns Grove Property  
Records Committee  
New business, announcements- bring a flyer for your announcement  
12:30 – Lunch, hosted by Kennett Meeting Friends

**How Do We Reach Resolution? – What Do We Want?**

Jim Kimmel, high powered attorney, realized one day that the more "justice" he was winning for his clients, the more unhappy they (and he) were becoming. He faced a crisis in his life: There seemed to be a conflict between pursuit of "justice" (that had come to mean "revenge"), and pursuit of peace and happiness in our souls. Jim embarked upon a spiritual journey that led him to Quakerism, a new life, a new book, the creation of a new "Nonjustice" System. Jim began leading reform in the legal profession by integrating law and spirituality through the new practice of mind, body, and spirit law. His new book *Suing for Peace: A Guide for Resolving Life's Conflicts (without Lawyers, Guns, or Money)* became part of Philadelphia's Gun Buyback Program. He is working to establish community-based Miracle Courts in Philadelphia and New York City- for resolving conflicts and to restore peace, outside the judicial system. (More on pp. 4-5)

**Clay Fun at Crosslands**

Building with clay is a special form of centering; Quaker-friendly! Neal Kilpatrick of Kennett Meeting will lead us. Children 3-5 bring a parent.

~ **CHILDCARE for under 5's:** Please phone ahead for childcare at Kennett.

Twelfth Query: Integrity and Simplicity

- What does our Meeting understand to be the meaning and implication of our testimonies on simplicity and integrity?
- How do our Meeting's actions demonstrate this understanding?
- As a Meeting, what are we doing to encourage members to embody integrity and simplicity in their everyday lives?
- How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives – in my spiritual journey, my work, and my family responsibilities? How do I manage my commitments so that overcommitment, worry, and stress do not diminish my integrity?
- Am I temperate in all things? Am I open to counsel and advice on overindulgence and addictive behavior, such as gambling? Do I take seriously the hazards associated with addictive and mood-altering substances?
- Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me? Am I mindful that judicial oaths imply a double standard of truth?
- Do I refrain from membership in organizations whose purposes and methods compromise our testimonies?

\* \* \* \* \*

**All - North America Conference**  
First Annual N. American Conference for Racial Justice and Equality within the Religious Society Of Friends is 3/31-4/2, at the Burlington N J Conference Center. All Friends and attenders with a commitment are invited; an energetic encouragement goes out to high school & young adult Friends. Go to Young Friends' section at [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org) and click on the event, for flyer; registration contact is Maureen Lopes, [mlopes@snet.net](mailto:mlopes@snet.net) and at 23 Old Farms Rd., Madison, CT 06443. Friends from 4 Yearly Meetings are creating this significant gathering.

## Western Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Western Quarterly (WQ) Meeting is formed by the following Monthly Meetings: Centre (DE), Fallowfield (PA), Hockessin (DE), Kendal (PA), Kennett (PA), London Grove (PA), Marlborough (PA), Mill Creek (DE), New Garden (PA), Newark (DE), and West Grove (PA).

WQM is a member of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and thus affiliated with Friends General Conference.

### Western Quarterly Meeting Officers

#### Clerk

Adele Baldwin  
West Grove MM

#### Recording Clerk

Chip Thomas  
Marlborough MM

#### Assistant Clerk

David Kee  
Hockessin MM

#### Treasurer

Artie Yeatman  
London Grove MM

#### Assistant Treasurer

Adele Baldwin  
West Grove MM

### WQM Staff

*Facilitator: Secretary, Youth*

Gail Newbold

*To contact our Webmaster*

Gail.pietrzyk@verizon.net

### WQM Websites

[www.localquakers.org](http://www.localquakers.org)

[www.pym.org/western-qm](http://www.pym.org/western-qm)

To give information for the Newsletter, or to get information about activities reported here, calls may be directed to the Western Quarterly Meeting Office, 610-444-1012.

## Recap of Fall Western Quarterly Meeting

Friends greeted one another and were welcomed by West Grove Meeting Friends. At 9:30 Friends gathered for a centering meeting for worship.

Moving into our second hour, Friends greeted Karen Vaccaro and David Kern, who brought photos and shared about their summers workcamping in Uganda under care of the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI; a project of Friends Peace Teams) and of the Ugandan Friends who have created the project *Children of Hope*. Four years ago Ugandan Friend George Walumoli visited Germantown Friends, where David Kern teaches. In addition to describing reconciliation work in Ugandan communities as an Alternatives to Violence Project facilitator with AGLI, George said, "You know, I have another dream as well; I'd love to build a school, and a program, to help the children in our area. Many do not have homes with able parents, due to HIV-AIDS and other factors." The dream is being realized. In a 10-15 mile radius near George and their large Friends meeting, there are about 20,000 people. Of these, about 2000 children are in great need of supports their families can no longer offer. Now, about 200 children are enrolled as *Children of Hope*, so they may receive food and schooling. More about the heartening activities of Ugandan Friends, and the workcamping is on pages 3-4. Thanks were expressed to David and Karen for being with us.

As Friends gathered again for Meeting for worship for Business, worship first turned to the 8th Query on Peace. A Friend spoke of the personal actions of Friends who are peacemakers. A Friend invited all to pray for opponents and to not demonize those we disagree with. Friends are seeking for a fuller, deeper understanding by all.

Friends were reminded that we are asked to consider the Queries as a whole Monthly (and Quarterly) Meeting community, as well as in our capacities as individuals. Answering the queries offer us a joint, *corporate* responsibility – to seek continuing revelation as a spiritual community. If we are not nurturing a Query, as a Friends Community, why not?

Next, minutes of the July meeting for business were reviewed and approved, and the treasurers' report was accepted with gratitude. It was noted that Unified Budgeting in our Quarter means Monthly Meetings communicate directly with the Quarter so we can develop our full Covenant, rather than sending monthly meeting communications to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

In the Nominating committee report, it was noted Paul Cobb has asked to step down from being an Auditor for the Quarter. Friends voiced appreciation for Paul's years of service to Western Quarterly Meeting. Next, Mary Sproat reported on the Parkersville property. The new oak tree is being tended by the Friends who meet there on First Days, and the grounds are regularly cared for. The sign has been repainted to show the time of Meeting that now occurs year-round. Gail Newbold offered the annual report for the Youth Activities Committee. The staff position for youth is OPEN. The committee now invites all interested Friends to meet in periodic open committee meetings; in this way the committee has had some success in greater participation while planning future activities. Volunteer adult helping hands are welcomed. A full calendar of opportunities and service projects were well attended during the past year. See the written report. The Youth Activity Committee also expressed gratitude for the eventful and meaningful WQ BorderLinks trip which occurred 9/3-10 with 12 Friends, and for the completion of our Western Quarterly Meeting Child Protection Guidelines, approved 4/05. Before closing Meeting for Business, Friends expressed gratitude for the wonderful sharing that brought us closer to Ugandan Friends and the Children of Hope program, and Friends approved a donation to the program.

A gracious lunch served by West Grove Friends followed. The youth, who had come indoors for the program on Ugandan Friends, were back indoors for lunch, bringing a report about the spruced-up Sanctuary area and the native plants placed in the ground during their two hours outdoors.

Friends expressed gratitude for the many gifts of the day.

## **Give Love: A Circle**

"Love is something if you give it away, you end up having more" are words from a favorite song by Malvina Reynolds, *Magic Penny*. We hear abundant stories of times when one gift or simple indication of caring or love, inspires another. The circle grows. Keep the circle growing!

\* Recent stories from Friends in our Meetings:

**A Young Friend** has chosen to give a portion of each week's allowance, and he chooses recipients with care, himself. In the course of time he heard that the Tick Tock Children's Center was seeking funds to put in playground equipment. He donated. Now he has a standing invitation to come over to the Center, visit, and play on the new equipment.

**Community Gardens of Chester County**, directed by Friend Susan Goldsworthy, has given many people an opportunity to share and express their friendship. Elinor Thomforde, London Grove Meeting, is a volunteer and advisory committee member with Community Gardens. Elinor remarks, "The joy and energy and working and playing together that the children have.. it is so hopeful for the future.. all children have it.. When I'm actually on a project, I make it a point to be with the children. ..(While volunteering,) I turned over a shovelful (of soil) and there was a big, fat worm. (Children) have been taught to be afraid, and the "instinct" is to kill it. .. So whenever we found worms, I would pick one out and hold it. Gingerly they would start to touch it with one finger.. (And) I do this with any insect you can find.. they are part of God's creation, too. ...In some locations, it is the children who have led the parents to join in the gardening." Elinor described a location, where while cleaning up and planting, everyone who lived there came out: " People who lived 2-3 doors apart had not met and were out and speaking with each other. .. Each one of these things builds on the ones before. We use all kinds of tools, (for) community-building."

**English as a Second Language** (ESL) opportunities are abundant in local communities. Mindy Dole's job is to give learning support for ESL students in an Avon Grove Middle School setting. Mindy says, "I am remembering more of my Spanish than I thought. .. One student tries to tease me.. He's going to try to teach me Spanish. Another girl is from the Philippines."

**After the Bell, Chester County Futures, and Study Buddies** are three programs in Kennett Square, all volunteer-friendly and praised by Peg Baker of Kennett Meeting. Peg will not say anything about her own contributions, but it is clear that Peg has given and received a great deal. She will tell you Joan Holliday, whom many of us know from the Kennett volunteers' "Bridging our Community," is terrific, and Lindsey Pugh Sweet of Migrant Education is outstanding. Peg described a time before *After the Bell* began. The Woods' (Kennett Meeting), who had prior experience in California, were clear that the thing to do was to ask questions and find the needs. After extensive interviewing and "getting all the ducks in a row" *After the Bell* was born.

\* Meeting events during recent months:

## **London Grove Meeting - Big Yard Sale in Oct.**

Social Service Committee at London Grove initiated a "yard sale" for American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) humanitarian work, after learning about the changes in the AFSC Emergency Material Aids Program. Countless items from Friends' homes were sold at nominal prices. The clothing section filled a large tent! \$810. was donated to AFSC for Katrina Hurricane relief.

## **Mill Creek Meeting - 10,000 Villages Sale, Nov.**

Meeting Friends brought *Ten Thousand Villages Sale of Third World Crafts* to Mill Creek Meeting for a 7th annual pre-holiday season. This year sales at Mill Creek were just under \$6000. Ten Thousand Villages, gives a fair price to craftspeople around the world. The organization meets with the artisans to assure fair wages for the number of hours they are working. All purchasers are supporting the goal of sustained, fair wages for artisan families.

## **Kennett Friends Meeting – Quaker Fair 11/19**

In the Quaker Fair's 54th year, Friends rolled up their sleeves to create a wonderful Fair. The meetinghouse was filled with lovely things and happy participants. This year some very special books were donated to be sold, raising the proceeds to \$13,000. All proceeds go to support the work of the American Friends Service Committee.

## **Community Posada**

About fifty Friends from all around Western Quarter enjoyed the warm glow of Kennett area's first Posada. We gathered at Kennett Meetinghouse to warm up and practice songs in Spanish and English before caroling outdoors, at neighbors,' and on to the Garage Community Center. At the Garage, it was a joy to look around at 250 neighbors from all walks of life, singing, eating tamales, salsa, cakes, hot chocolate and cider while children lined up by size and took swings at at least 5 pinatas. We learned there IS room at the inn, and friendliness among all.

*If you are interested in helping arrange events like this, pls. let me know of your interest! -Gail Newbold*

## **Workcamping – Photos at Quarterly Meeting**

Our guests at Quarterly Meeting, David and Karen, made the friendship with Ugandan Friends and neighbors come to life. Ugandan officials have visited Bududa to see the outstanding two-story buildings in rural Uganda, the school built by the Ugandans and Workcampers. Workcamps occur annually in the summer. Each workcamper raises about \$3500. \$500 is for room and board; \$1000-1500 directly to materials, \$1500 airplane fare. This year, the Bududa workcamp had 5 U.S. workcampers, 2 from Canada, 1 from Burundi, and 1 from Congo.

Evangelical Friends in Uganda sing and pray with vocal vigor, and workcampers joined them in meetinghouses dotted through the rural area. The group traveled by jeep near to the meetinghouse, then walked up a long hill to the meetinghouse. Karen also showed a

photo of Children of Hope writing letters to sponsors in Canada and the U.S. Tailoring, sewing, welding, carpentry, masonry, and computer-savvy are some of vocations offered, as children grow to middle school age. Alternatively, children pass a test for academic middle school and then pay some money to attend, nearby or at a distance. The Children of Hope come from the backgrounds present in the area, including Islamic as well as Christian. There are 3000 Quakers in Uganda.

### Job Opening

Quarterly Meeting Youth Activities Co-facilitator, part time. Duties: Periodic, regular activities for school-age youth (4-5 yrs & up) in Western Quarterly Meeting; activities, communications, related program assistance. 40 hours per month. Contact Adele Baldwin, 610-345-0413 or [AdeleBald@aol.com](mailto:AdeleBald@aol.com).

### YOUTH

New? SEND your information to the WQ Office at 610-444-1012, or call Gail Newbold day or evening at 610-869-3455 or [info@localquaker.org](mailto:info@localquaker.org) or [gnewbold@kennett.net](mailto:gnewbold@kennett.net). Ask for specific information, or to be on an e-mail list of Youth & Family Activities –or, alternatively, to receive phone calls. We send out occasional messages & a calendar.

To All ☺ Bring your idea or inspiration to Gail or to the W Q Youth Activities Committee. This is how we focus on a next activity or project. Let your light shine, and others will offer support or join in !!

#### Calendar of Western Quarterly Youth Activities

**1/1:** Roots & Shoots meeting, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.: A New Years' covered dish lunch and peaceful, friendly gathering for the new year. Chris Howells, 610- 998-1222, [chowells@zoominternet.net](mailto:chowells@zoominternet.net).

**1/22:** Youth Program at Quarterly Meeting! See p. 1.

**2/5:** Roots & Shoots regular meeting, 12:30-2:30, Kennett Meetinghouse.

**3/5:** Roots & Shoots regular meeting, 12:30-2:30, Kennett Meetinghouse.

→ Stay tuned for additional news.

#### P Y M Middle School and High School Events

Events are posted on the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) website at [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org), or use your telephone to get more information.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL, grades 6-8\*

**1/27-29:** Middle School Friends Winter Gathering at Burlington Center, NJ: "Risky Business", see details at web site or contact Elizabeth Walmsley\*.

**4/7-4/9:** Middle School Friends Spring Gathering, details to come.

Looking ahead: See the May & July listings under High School- these have special gatherings for both Middle and High School Friends. ☺

\*Contact Elizabeth Walmsley at 1-800-2200 PYM extension 7171 or 215-241-7171, [elizabethw@pym.org](mailto:elizabethw@pym.org) and [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org).

#### HIGH SCHOOL, grades 9-12\*

**2/24-26:** Young Friends Environmental Gathering, at Burlington, NJ

**3/24-26:** Young Advocates for Peace, for Young Friends & Friends School students; at Burlington, NJ Center

Looking Ahead: **5/6-8:** Camp Swatara gathering;

**7/1-7:** FGC Gathering at Pacific Lutheran Univ., Puget Sound, WA - Get a sponsor if your parents don't go!

**7/25-30:** Young Friends at Residential Yearly Meeting, DeSales Univ., Center Valley, PA !!!

\*Contact Cookie Caldwell at 1-800-2200 PYM x 7222 or [Cooookiec@pym.org](mailto:Cooookiec@pym.org) and [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org).

More for **HIGH SCHOOL:**

**3/31-4/2:** Friends' First Annual North American Conference for Racial Justice and Equality, located at Burlington Center, NJ! *Further information on p. 1.*

- Pendle Hill has rich workshops, and Youth Camps in the summer. See the site [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org), or request a paper workshop booklet. Contact Nancy Diaz [Ndiaz@pendlehill.org](mailto:Ndiaz@pendlehill.org) 800-742-3150 x 161, or 610-566-4507 x 161.

- Internships and other opportunities: Quaker Information Center, [www.quakerinfo.org](http://www.quakerinfo.org); at AFSC [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org); & at Pendle Hill.

### Justice, Revenge, Happiness, Peace

James Kimmel asks, what does "justice" mean, in modern courts? What is the purpose of punishment? He asks if our culture or institutions have brought us to accept "revenge" as a definition for justice? Jim then draws us away from this familiar, guilt-or-innocence model to look in places beyond the U.S.'s British-heritage court system. Does the wronged person want revenge, or happiness and peace?

In summer of 2005 at a Friends General Conference Gathering evening presentation, Bishop Shelby Spong (Episcopal) took Friends back into the Bible, to particular passages where spectacular growth-points in Biblical religion are revealed.\* Beginning in parts of the Old Testament, Bishop Spong finds the Bible outgrowing the ancient patterns of tribal religion. In other words, Spong finds the Bible, in his words, "transcending its own limitations." What was first a God who would kill non-Jews, in order to protect the Jews, became a God who expects a greater love to be shown. Spong describes steps in the developments beyond a tribal religion. Some steps are found in Amos, Micah, and Malachi. Regarding *Justice* Spong says, "(Amos told the people) that when you separate worship from justice you have neither worship nor justice. Amos said, Worship is nothing but human justice being offered to God, and human justice is nothing but divine worship being lived out... and if you ever separate one from the other you have killed both.. and so he (Amos) brought this tremendous sense of justice into that small Jewish tradition, and so that religion began to grow into something more than tribal religion."

So when James Kimmel asks us where Justice comes from, he seeks to create a bridge between the modern day (where we have heard deeply differing definitions for the word Justice) and something we know deep in us, the lesson from Amos. Jim sets before us a challenge



that has come to him as an attorney: that the most important trial of our lives each day, is how will we define our relationship with the people who wrong us? How we define the trial, and then the outcome of the trial, determines (in words from Kennett Meeting regarding Jim's message) whether "relationships are nurtured or destroyed, children are loved or abused, whether careers are launched or lost, whether property is protected or stolen, whether discrimination is conquered or encouraged, whether a bomb is defused or detonated."

As people in Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops say, where is the creativity and willingness to get to a satisfying, mutual resolution? Look for the moment of Transforming Power, linked with the listening and creativity.

In the New Testament, we come to Jesus. Bishop Spong makes the observation that the truly revolutionary teachings of Jesus were his message to extend Love even to thine enemy, and the example of Equality, when Jesus treated men and women, and the "lowly," as able students for his teachings. Here is a difficult step, put in the simplest terms. What does it mean to love those who have wronged us, or whom we have come to define as enemy (or other)?

In this time when torture is in the news, and we wonder what values are vigorous in the branches of government, how do we make a link between our own understandings, and the society we live in? Consider a recently-released book, *Off Center* (2005), written by two political scientists, Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson. The authors remind us that a predecessor/forerunner to our U.S. Congress was the deliberation methods of the Seneca- a culture that included opening a question faced by "government" to a respectful forum where each opinion is aired and truths are sought, prior to forming a decision. The two houses of U. S. government were designed to work together not by coercion, but inside a value of mutual respect among those seated at the tables. There is a spiritual nature here, not unlike the message of Amos. It is this spiritual nature, often called "respect" or "integrity" when we talk about government, but related to the love Jesus describes, found in the expectations of the U.S. Constitution, that binds a society in the same way it may bind a family or neighborhood. When Friends become willing to hold in the Light this spiritual nature in government or in another civic setting, they become effective in meeting with and acting within the sphere of government or a similar setting, local, national or international.

Thanks to Friend James Kimmel for bringing us to focus on Justice and "Nonjustice." We look forward to his insights about Nonjustice, happiness and peace. The road is made by every step.

- this article by Newsletter editor (not by Jim)

\*A CD of Bishop Spong's one-hour talk is available at Quaker Books of FGC, [www.quakerbooks.org](http://www.quakerbooks.org) or 1-800-966-4556.

### **Reconciliation in Rwanda**

When the genocide started in Rwanda ten years ago, Mama Fifi was a young woman. Her husband was killed. Mama Fifi ran and ran. She was 5-6 months

pregnant, and she lost the baby. Later she was able to return to the home, but due to looting most of the things in the home were gone. Then, one day a neighbor would stop by and bring a fork. Another would bring a casserole dish that used to be in the house. And neighbors would ask to be forgiven. People were attempting to rebuild community. A few years after the genocide Rwandan Friends asked to learn to facilitate Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops, developed by Friends and prisoners in Attica prison, New York.

W Qtr. Friends were blessed with a visit from Laura Shipler Chico, who, with her spouse Matt Chico, moved from Maryland to Rwanda one year ago. Laura was attracted to Rwanda after learning about the AVP-Reconciliation and Trauma Healing work of Rwanda Yearly Meeting Friends and North American Friends in African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI, of Friends Peace Teams). Laura is an experienced Alternatives to Violence workshop facilitator, now with AVP-Rwanda, after years with Middle Atlantic Region AFSC.

Laura described for a circle of Friends, that Rwanda is the second most densely populated country in the world. In the genocide ten years ago, about 75% of all Tutsi's were killed. Such severe fear and distrust was sown that people in Rwanda will say that to make a friend is "to invite an enemy into your life." In Laura's words, "The Quaker notion that there is that of God in every one is *radical, radical.*" A participant in one of the AVP workshops for reconciliation said, "AVP brings people's hearts back to Love. I made friends." Laura commented, "Think how powerful it is to make a friend.. Laura asked a Friend in Rwanda, "Is Reconciliation possible?" "Yes, it is possible.. it's difficult, but possible... I think Rwanda - we - will be the Light for the world." - Contact info: Gail Newbold; or N. America director for AGLI, Friend David Zarembka, [davidzarembka@juno.com](mailto:davidzarembka@juno.com) .

### **Friends International Center, Ramallah**

Thom Jeavons recently visited a couple of our Monthly Meetings to offer an update about the Ramallah Friends Meetinghouse and those who strive for peace and restoration in Palestine-Israel-the West Bank. Thom showed photos of the rebuilt Ramallah Friends Meetinghouse, associated "classroom" annex, and young olive trees in the garden, signs of hope. At the time of dedication of the rebuilt Meetinghouse, Thom learned more about the lives of the Palestinians and Israelis, viewed the wall (26 feet high), and spent four days in discernment with others seeking ways to peace.

Friends may remember the beginnings of a beautiful chain of gifts and inspiration that came, in a significant part, from the visit of Friend Jean Zaru to our Yearly Meeting in 2002. At that time, after Friends heard from Jean Zaru, an initial gift of funds from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting was proposed and approved by Friends in the full business session.

Three years later, first we see the rebuilt, shining, sound Ramallah Meetinghouse, and accompanying hope. Then, the Meetinghouse "team" asked, "What is the hope?" Various people in the region responded, "We

yearn for a safe place, where people from many backgrounds may come together, to have conversations." Historically, Ramallah is a meeting place. Also, these grounds have been a safe place. " If we may meet, this may help bring peace."

Now the next gift is coming together! Friends International Center in Ramallah (FICR) is beginning. At the meetinghouse, there will be space for worship, and an environment where people may come together and communicate. The International Center will be a space for nurture – not on "any group's side." This is similar to the role of Quaker House, which is in walking distance of the United Nations in New York. Kathy Bergen, Coordinator of the AFSC Israel-Palestine Peacebuilding Program, who will move on after 12 years with AFSC, will leave for Ramallah in March to be Program Coordinator of FIRC. Kathy writes, "I look forward to renewing old acquaintances and making new ones, and I especially look forward to working with Jean Zaru, the clerk of the Ramallah Friends Meeting, in developing the FIRC together."

Friends may contact PYM General Secretary Thom Jeavons at [thomj@pym.org](mailto:thomj@pym.org) .

### **Peace Delegation to Hiroshima**

A delegation of Friends from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) traveled to Japan during the summer. The purposes were Friendship, recognition, and learning, at the time of the 60th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 6 and 9 of 1945.

Scott and Ian Rhodewalt of London Grove Meeting were in this delegation. They spoke to London Grove Friends about their experiences.

We were moved, hearing about the care for peace by Japanese people. Generally, the public has maintained a focus on the overall importance of peace, after the great damage of the bombs, and blame is avoided, understanding blame engenders more hurt, which can poison the future. New influence in favor of militarism, coming from pressure by the U.S. asking Japan to militarize, has confused this picture somewhat. Also Scott, a history teacher with previous connections with Japan, has explored the dynamics that went into the U.S. decision to drop bombs. This subject has received ongoing study and attention. Friendly connections and the expression of our continuing care for peace, were communicated by the delegates and their hosts, including hosts at the Quaker-initiated Hiroshima World Friendship Center. ~ Call WQ office if you're looking to reach Scott about a visit to your meeting. Ian is in college, not always available to speak.

### **For Monthly Meetings**

**Joan Broadfield**, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting staff for Peace, Justice and Earth Restored, has let Friends know she is ready for invitations to visit Monthly Meetings.

Joan is willing to explore with Friends, how our worship is connected with our daily lives? Do we live our days in worship? What is "being active"? How do we notice inspiration, and how do we engage in discernment?

Joan is able to bring resources about specific areas of peace and justice work, and to let Friends consider a particular area of concern or interest.

Also Joan has sent out a specific message about putting faith to action: What if you could tell the IRS how your tax money should be spent? The PYM working Group on Conscience, Militarism and War Tax Concerns is looking for Friends moved to work toward legislation called the Peace Tax Fund bill. There is a National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, and there will be a lobbying day in May. If interested, contact Joan Broadfield at 215-241-7240 or [joanb@pym.org](mailto:joanb@pym.org). Further details at <http://www.peacetaxfund.org> .

**Christie Duncan-Tessmer**, PYM Religious Education staff for children, has announced Shareshops, a workshop of sharing among participants. If interested, and if interested in getting our qtr. to do this, please contact Gail Newbold, WQ staff.

**Peace Vigil in Kennett Square** 2001- 05 noted our anniversary in mid-12th month, when we began the 5th year of our weekly Vigils. Join us each Friday, 3:30-4:30 p.m. in winter, 4-5:00 when Pennsylvania is on daylight savings time.

**Lansdowne Meeting Queries on Support of Conscientious Objectors** The following queries were approved by Lansdowne Monthly Meeting in 11th mo. 2001. These address how we support our young people as they consider matters of military service and conscientious objection. The recording of views, and of written statements, pertain to the documentation of one's position well in advance of a possible activation of Selective Service (draft).

1. Does our Meeting teach our younger members about our historic Peace Testimony and encourage them to study the lives of Quakers who have given it practical expression?
2. Does our Meeting provide opportunities for our young people (e.g. aged 15 to 18), as part of their spiritual development, to explore and record their views and convictions about war, draft registration and conscientious objection? Do we have the resources in place to answer their questions about these issues?
3. Does our Meeting collect, hold confidential and keep written statements for possible later use by the authors?

## Time to Stop Torture

The **Quaker Initiative to End Torture** (QUIT) is planning a conference on torture, June 2-4, 2006, at Guilford College in North Carolina. "It is our hope that a well-planned conference can inform without over-whelming and develop a wide variety of actions towards changing laws/policies and rehabilitation for both survivors and perpetrators." Updates at [www.johncalvi.com](http://www.johncalvi.com).

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## Upcoming

TurtleDove Folk Club See [www.turtledove.org](http://www.turtledove.org) ;

1-866-TURTLE-D, [folkbloke@kennett.net](mailto:folkbloke@kennett.net). Concerts at West Grove Meetinghouse, 8 p.m.

1/21: Dukes of Destiny. "Chicago Blues," with space for dancing – a favorite.

2/11: Crooked Still. Bluegrass, old time and contemporary folk. Cello, bass, banjo and voice.

3/18: Guy Davis. Acoustic blues, stellar playing.

### Quaker Singles

All adult ages; new people welcomed at our events!

To receive *Calendar updates regularly*, phone Judy Forbes at 610-399-0595 or ask Georgia at 610-444-0650 or [pugmother@aol.com](mailto:pugmother@aol.com).

Quaker Singles enjoyed a beautiful Victorian Christmas Party on Saturday evening, 12/17/05.

### Hadley Fund Events

*Free performances and lectures. The Fund was established in honor of Theodore and Elizabeth Hadley, by their son and daughter. Kennett Friends Meeting and the Phila. Ethical Society care for the Hadley Board.* Information or schedule changes: 610-444-1855.

**1/28: "Why I Live at the P.O." and Other Stories by Eudora Welty**, performed by Martha Kemper- into the lives of captivating, finely drawn characters of this Pulitzer-Prize winning author. 8 p.m., Kennett High School.

**2/12: Curtis Institute of Music Concert**, music from exceptionally gifted young musicians. 3 p.m., Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church.

**2/27: America's Concentration Camps- The Internment of the Japanese-Americans During World II**, presented by Friend Dan George (Kennett Meeting). Lecture will describe the ordeal suffered by Japanese-Americans throughout the duration of the war, and their recovery afterward. Dan has lectured at the U. of Del.'s Academy of Life Long Learning for several years. 8 p.m., Unionville High School.

**3/24: Living with Deer: Implications, Options and Challenges**, beautifully illustrated lecture by Dr. Gary Alt. 8 p.m., Unionville High School.

Pendle Hill Quaker Center for Study and Contemplation, 610-566-4507, [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org)

**\*Weekend and Weeklong Courses** – consider the gifts to you or a Friend in the Meeting, and the ripple effects, of a course, workshop or retreat. See descriptions in a Pendle Hill Catalogue or website. – Some upcoming courses are: Gandhi, Dorothy Day and Malcom X: The Quest for Personal and Social Transformation;

Howard Thurman: In Search of Authentic Community; Activism and Contemplation: Where is the Meeting Place?; and Restoration, with John Calvi. *Financial assistance is available. Contact Pendle Hill & also the WQ Office.*

**\* Pendle Hill Sojourns, Retreats, Internships:** consult the website or on-paper catalogue.

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## The Meaning of God

There is an indefinable mysterious Power that pervades everything.

I feel It, though I do not see It.

It is this unseen Power which makes Itself felt and yet defies all proof, because It is so unlike all that I perceive through my senses.

It transcends the senses....

That informing Power or Spirit is God....

For I can see that in the midst of death life persists, in the midst of untruth, truth persists, in the midst of darkness light persists.

Hence I gather that God is Life, Truth, Light. He is love.

He is supreme good.

But he is no God who merely satisfies the intellect If He ever does.

God to be God must rule the heart and transform it.

– M. K. Gandhi, b. 1869 Published in Young India, 10/11/1928

## Happenings

**\*\*Quarterly Meeting Sun. 1/22 – PROGRAM: Suing for Peace, with James Kimmel, Friend & Attorney; YOUTH: Exploring with Clay. See page 1.**

### January

**01: Roots & Shoots**, Kennett Meetinghouse. New Years' covered dish meal at 12:30 p.m., to 2:30. Contact: Chris Howells 610-998-1222 or [chowells@zoominternet.net](mailto:chowells@zoominternet.net).

**22: Western Quarterly Meeting & Youth Program** at Kennett Friends Meeting, see page 1 for details.

**27-29: Middle School Friends' Weekend Gathering, "Risky Business"** at Burlington, NJ. Contact: Elizabeth Walmsley, 1-800-2200 PYM x7171 or 215-241-7171 or [elizabethw@pym.org](mailto:elizabethw@pym.org) and see [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org)

**28: PYM Threshing Session on Budget**, at Arch St. Meeting House, 4th & Arch Sts., Phila. 9:00-1:00. Childcare: 215-241-7045; for plans if weather is inclement same phone #.

### February

**05: Roots & Shoots**, Kennett Meetinghouse. Arrive 12 or after with your lunch. Activities 12:30-2:30. Questions: Chris Howells 610-998-1222 or [chowells@zoominternet.net](mailto:chowells@zoominternet.net)

**24-26: PYM Young Friends Environmental Gathering**, at Burlington, NJ. Contact: Cookie Caldwell, 215-241-7222, [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org)

### March

**05: Roots & Shoots**, see details at February 5, above; Kennett Meetinghouse.

**17:** Time to have all news, announcements, articles, & stories in to WQ office for the **Spring edition** of *The Friendly News*.

**18: PYM Training Day on Child Safety Policies and Procedures**, with Tom Hoopes and Eric Spacek, Sr., Risk Manager of Guide One insurance. Contact: Tom Hoopes, [tomh@pym.org](mailto:tomh@pym.org) or 215-241-7224.

**24-26: PYM Young Friends: Young Advocates for Peace**, for young Friends & Friends School students, at Burlington, NJ. Contact Cookie Caldwell, 215-241-7222, [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org)

**31-4/2: First Annual No. American Conference on Racial Justice and Equality in the Religious Society of Friends**, with Friends from several Yearly Meetings, at Burlington, NJ Center. Contact Gail Newbold (WQ Office) or Maureen Lopes, [mlopes@snet.net](mailto:mlopes@snet.net) or Maureen Lopes, 23 Old Farms Rd., Madison, CT 06443

\*Spring Western Quarterly Meeting on Saturday **4/15**; hosts Hockessin Friends Meeting. Query to consider: 3rd.

\*Friends General Conference Gathering – July 1-7, Pacific Lutheran Univ. at Puget Sound, WA State.

\*PYM Residential Yearly Meeting/Annual Sessions – Tues.-Sunday, **July 25-30, 2006** at DeSales University, Allentown PA. Mark calendars early!

**EVERY Friday: Vigil for Peace**, 4:00-5:00 p.m. at Union & State Sts., Kennett Sq., all welcome; CHANGES to 3:30-4:30 p.m. when we are on Standard Time. Open to newcomers. [gnewbold@kennett.net](mailto:gnewbold@kennett.net); 610-444-1012; 610-869-3455.

~ SEND announcements: Gail Newbold sends out e-mails to Monthly Meetings, does phone calls, flyers, mailings, & the WQ Newsletter. To post on WQM Website, send info. to Gail Pietrzyk, [webmaster@localquakers.org](mailto:webmaster@localquakers.org) or 610-932-5961