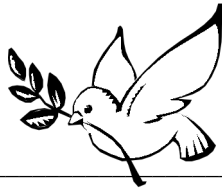


# Concord Quarterly News

of the Religious Society of Friends



## Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 19, Issue 4, October 2022

### Called to the Spirit of the Original Peoples

(Sandra Boone of the PYM First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative will give us an overview of its purpose and goals. What follows are answers to an email interview between Sandra and the editor (Rich A.). Sandra uses the pronoun We to refer to herself in the unity of the Spirit)



**Rich:** Can you tell us a bit of biography info / where Spirit dwells?

**Sandra:** Home is where the water flows – fresh, to brackish, to salt; Pine Barrens – where the land breathes. We arrived breech, under the Libra constellation into a community pairing word and deed, a village serving without being asked. Helping is a way of being since childhood, where early years were in education among Friends, then Montessori school. Along came centering mystic energy, oneness, harmony of water and spirited ones. Most often wordless, abundant wonderings flourish within; we hone gifts of observation and listening, reciprocating gifts of loving trust, where community welfare is as important as each individual; and we are flawed.

Home is [Scheyichbi](#) – the great peninsula of Lenapehoking; the land of Kechemeche and Absegami Lenape. Spirit led, we carry a minute of religious service with the Nanticoke Lenne-Lenape Tribal Nation, under the care and clearness of Friends' Worship & Ministry of Salem Quarter. We are blessed in partnership with Jim Murphy, with open acres, a pond and forest; our farm, Back of the Bay, is named a wildlife sanctuary; we are lairds tending a small herd of horses and offer equine therapeutic groundwork, where guests sense "radical hospitality." Our roots are with Atlantic City Area Friends.

**Rich:** What do you find the most frustrating with how US citizens view Native Americans? Who are the groups trying to change these attitudes?

**Sandra:** From decades of experience, east coast, west coast, island nations... Indigenous peoples have provided abundant hospitality, wisdom, knowledge, faithfully serving Creator's original instructions, serving community. Predominant cultures of colonizing have created preferential judicial systems, leaving legacies of biases, histories perpetuating dismissiveness - denying and diminishing rights, human rights - where this Friend is moved to speak.

Indigenous voices are rising – Nanticoke Lenne-Lenape, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, National Congress of American Indians, Alliance of Colonial Era Tribes, Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, Indian Country Today, High Country News, Indigenous Environmental Network, Indigenous Law Institute. Indigenous lawyers, indigenous teachers, indigenous artists, indigenous authors... are serving their ancient ones, tribal elders, tribal youth, and the whole family of creation.

**Rich:** Can you tell us something about PYM's First-Contact Reconciliation Collaborative? There used to be an Indian Committee in PYM stretching back a long time. How did that evolve into the present-day collaborative?

**Sandra:** PYM continues to have a committee with historic ties to 1795, gifted with monies to aid Native Nations Peoples. Formerly known as the PYM Indian Committee, is now known as the Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities serving as a granting group.

While a member of this Indian Committee, this Friend answered the still small voice within and petitioned others. The love of [Salem Quarter Indian Affairs Committee](#) birthed your [First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative](#), a wider reaching space of relationship building with authentic Indigenous Peoples, specifically the Nanticoke Lenne-Lenape Tribal Nation (Cohansey Lenape) and their relations. This Friend's light sensed the Yearly Meeting's

void and made request to the Quaker Life Council which was granted in 2017. First Contact Reconciliation is young, just five years with the Yearly Meeting, and our role may be vital toward potential, coming reparations. We can name a few mutually beneficial reparations – apologies, removal of harmful identities, land back initiatives, responsibly caring for earth, inclusion and equity with and for diverse cultures.

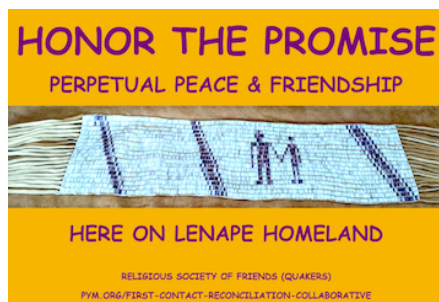
**Rich:** Where can educators find authentic information on Native American history and culture?

**Sandra:** We as a "master" teacher support the wisdom and knowledge generously shared by the National Museum of American Indians. Native American history is not only American history, it is cross-disciplinary. We recommend authentic works of NMAI, such as [We have a Story to Tell](#), (a teacher's guide to the Native Peoples of the Chesapeake region); [Land Acknowledgment Helpful Handout](#); [Terminology Helpful handout](#); and [Framework for Essential Understandings about American Indians](#). The Native Knowledge 360° ([NK360°](#)) is a gift that correlates with the NMAI exhibits.

Hearing divisive ways of colonialism, being sourced with [Decolonizing the Mindset](#), a brochure complementing a legal paper; the [NJ Commission on American Indian Affairs](#) and the [Nanticoke Lenne-Lenape Tribal Nation's](#) website are good places for information. Navigating the space of identity and self-proclamation is enhanced with the work ([Incomplete Loom](#)) by Harry Jackson III (Nanticoke Lenne-Lenape) and associations with the [Alliance of Colonial Era Tribes](#) and [National Congress of American Indians](#). For transparency, this Friend is a member of NCAI.

**Rich:** Are there policy initiatives which you think should happen at the federal or state levels?

**Sandra:** There is much to say about initiatives within Indigenous communities, worldwide being impacted by colonialism. One current initiative that we suggest is deserving consideration and discernment is the establishment of a Federal Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, ([S.2907/H.R.5444](#)). Friends, even if well intended, have a legacy, a history of relationship that beckons humble attention. The [Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition](#) (NABS) posts courageous stories and details supporting the intentions of this commission. In cooperation with [Friends Committee on National Legislation](#) we're advocating for this commission. This Friend is a member of NABS and continues to research Friends' roles in the IBS era.



**Rich:** In your presentation at our upcoming Quarterly Meeting, what would you like participants to remember?

**Sandra:** Vital to Friends is our collective witness. Your [First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative](#) is a living network of Spirit, our webpage is a living

document and we encourage you to review and contribute to that space by emailing [SacredWovenWord@yahoo.com](mailto:SacredWovenWord@yahoo.com), or calling 609 732-0576. We are here, navigating authentic relations, listening and acting as led, righting harms, lovingly with Indigenous Peoples, specifically Lenape, those whose ancestral homeland is the land of our meetinghouses, land where we live, land where we work, where we are seeking pursuits of happiness. Let us be open to wondering, how might we embrace a legacy we have not created; how might our lives speak in relationship with Lenape People, people who are "extended family"? Creating joyful noise, we are Treaty People, dutifully espousing our 'story.

## Clerks of the Quarter: A Call to Service

"The Quarter needed a Clerk, and I was called to serve." Charles B. Spadoni, Birmingham Monthly Meeting, better known as Charlie, expressed this mutual sentiment amongst the clerks I had the pleasure of interviewing this past summer to bring Light to the Clerking experience. Each of the following Clerks of Concord Quarter noted a similar experience: Debbie Murray-Sheppard, our current Clerk and member of Wilmington Monthly Meeting; Deb Wood, of Westtown Monthly Meeting; Rich Ailes, Middletown Monthly Meeting; and Christopher McKenney, Birmingham Monthly Meeting. They shared insightful experiences to help me, a Quaker newbie, understand the value of serving as a Clerk of the Quarter.

The role of Clerk of our Quarterly Meeting was described as a collective responsibility. Concord Quarterly Meeting is a collective of 8 monthly meetings located in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Northern Delaware. Our members of these meetings gather each quarter to share in worship, fellowship, and educational programs. A nominating committee works to select and qualify talent who might feel led towards the calling of volunteer leadership. The talent identified then must discern acceptance of this position. In our Quarter, part of that decision comes with knowing how important the Quarter can be to each Monthly Meeting. Rich Ailes shares his experience: "the commitment requires one to be ready to step up several times a year... [one] must be willing to assume that responsibility to be there as the central cog in the Quaker wheel to keep things rolling."

There is an expectation of maintaining momentum and staying focused on an agenda but, "Concord Quarterly Meeting should never allow itself to be stagnant," Debbie Murray-Sheppard adds. She finds that "the Quarter is a space to reach beyond the Monthly Meeting to find Friends with which to reflect and discern a way forward." Friends come to the Quarter to enhance their experiences as Quakers. It provides an opportunity to see beyond the history of an individual meeting and open oneself to the wider community. It is a place where "people can put their beliefs into action." (Christopher McKenney)



While the Clerk may serve an integral role in Meeting for Business by keeping organizational order, it also maintains space for Spirit to be held in the room, virtual or otherwise. Deb Wood expresses that "she was constantly reminded of the presence of Spirit and consciously called upon It during her service." This is where a Clerk of Quaker meetings differs from a corporate executive or paid staff. The Clerk practices "deep listening [in order to] hear the love and concern in messages, not just the words." (Debbie Murray-Sheppard) This discernment is one of the most important qualities of not just a Clerk of a Monthly Meeting but specifically the Clerk of the Quarter because they are managing needs of more than one body of Friends which adds to the complexity. Rich Ailes shares that he would "pray before each session that God help [him] be a servant leader and keep [his] ego out of the process." This was, admittedly, more difficult than it seemed. Becoming open to the Spirit in a Meeting may mean honoring rising concerns even if some parts of the agenda and its reports must be delayed to next quarter.

Peace, Justice, Community & Integrity were testimonies which resonated most for our Clerks of the Quarter. Deepening their Faith and putting practice into action through service showed them how uniquely beautiful these testimonies come into play. Debbie Murray-Sheppard, clerking through an unprecedented time of Covid, reflected on the tenacity of Concord Quarter and how it was able to pivot through change. I found in all four interviews the clerks were often stretched in their abilities in profound ways and each one saw their term as a time in which they gained emotional and spiritual strength.

Clerks of Monthly Meetings give much and, I could say, Clerks of the Quarter give more, however, "the commitment of folks who are led to participate at any level is absolutely critical to the Quarter." (Rich Ailes) No one position holds more weight. The possibility of moving together with the divine, garners much strength. The Clerks of the Quarter rely on this divine in each member, seeker and attender to keep our Quarter moving. It is a give and take which requires the involvement of individuals prepared to witness the Light in one another, constantly guided by the Spirit.

- B. Santini-Dumas, Coordinator CQM

## Reflections on FGC's 2022 YAY Gathering



Lynne with daughter Elizabeth

virtual Gathering to be the same week, was also happening. Thanks to very hard work by staff and volunteers, they made the two events happen.

It was beautiful to see the in-person community that grew over the course of 4 days. A highlight was community worship each day in a large circle with opportunities for any age to sit in the middle on the floor and be creative or thoughtful with the materials offered. There was lots of "hang out" time under the tent and in various lounges and wonderful intergenerational activities in the late afternoon. The children had age-appropriate programs morning and evening, and the High School Program and Adult Young Friend Program had their activities as well, including out trips. The High School program engaged in an anti-racism training, requested a couple of years ago and presented by Creative Praxis. Participants were encouraged to look at what they can do as individuals and were given initial tools to bring to anti-racism work with their peers, in their schools, with their neighbors, politically and socially. The younger children had a variety of activities including mushroom hunting, bread baking and more.

The small YAY (Youth and Young Adults) Gathering for families, high school students, and young adults was held in person at Radford University in Virginia from July 6-10. About 114 people including volunteers attended this experiment in building intergenerational community. Planning began in March when it was determined a larger traditional in-person gathering was not feasible. At the same time planning for the

There was a workshop for adults in the morning, along with opportunities for worship sharing and hanging out. Many volunteers helped with the children's programming, golf carts, office tasks, QuakerBooks, communication with the dining services, serving as "Friends in Residence" for various age groups and more. I was there as a volunteer to support the Gathering Office and coordinate worship sharing, while my husband worked with a group of children. The late afternoon intergenerational activities included a different set of activities each day: ballroom dancing, art projects, water play, soccer, and lessons on a Segway to mention a few! After dinner, people could watch the streamed plenaries from the virtual Gathering. Saturday evening there was an intergenerational talent sharing with folks from age 4 to grandparent age sharing their gifts.

Strict covid protocols were in practice, including the requirement that one test negative before coming, test negative upon arrival and mask indoors with good masks, and preferably outside as well if you could not distance. This meant that several people did not come or stay because they tested positive ahead of time or upon arrival. And a small group tested positive a couple days in and had to leave, but overall we stayed safe. We were sharing the campus with a lot of high school students there for another program. Virtually none of them or the college staff were masked. We were encouraged to get our food and eat in the tent provided outside.

This was a shorter Gathering than in the past (arrive on a Wednesday, leave on Sunday), and was centered on families, youth and young adults. It also meant that it was less expensive, and folks could take off fewer work days to attend. Less was scheduled during the day and people enjoyed the relaxed nature of that. Feedback was very positive. This fall FGC is holding Gathering Anew focus groups to consider the future of Gathering. Planning is already happening for the 2023 Gathering in Oregon!

-Lynne Piersol, Swarthmore Meeting

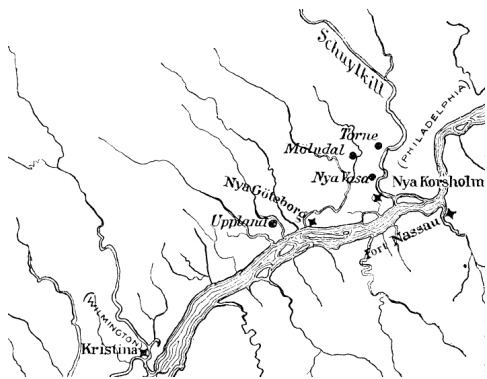


## The Lenape of the Delaware Valley before and After Penn

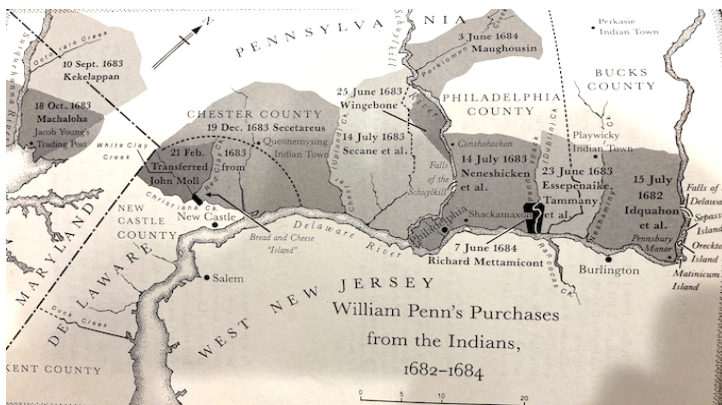
*"We Do, by this our Royal Charter, for us, our heirs and successors, make, create and constitute the true and absolute proprietaries of the Country aforesaid, ... To Have, hold and possess and enjoy the said tract of Land, Country, Isles, Inlets and other premises, unto the said William Penn, his heirs and assignees, to the only proper use and behoove of the said William Penn, his heirs and assignees forever."*  
<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/documents/1681-1776/pennsylvania-charter.html>

In 1681 King Charles II of England produced a 4 page (20"x24") charter of a land grant to William Penn to pay off a debt which the King owed to Penn's father. He granted the only available tract in eastern North America. It lay west of New Jersey, north of Maryland, and south of New York, an area that England had conquered from the Dutch in 1664. The king named the land "Pennsylvania". We all know that. What we may intuitively bypass is that the king "owned" the land because of a conquest over the Dutch who "owned" the land because of "First Discovery" in the early 1600's. What is missing from our historical framework is the "original" owners of a land called the Lenapehoking on either side of the river called Lenapewihittuk. Swedish and Dutch colonists called this river the South River. When the English took control, they named it after the first royal governor of the Virginia colony "Sir Thomas West, 3rd Baron De La Warr".

The land inhabited by the Lenni Lenape, looked like this in 1650  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Sweden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Sweden):



Between 1682 and 1684 Penn purchased the following lands from the various Lenape tribes as described in this map below: (page 491 The Papers of William Penn vol 2 Univ of Penn press 1982)

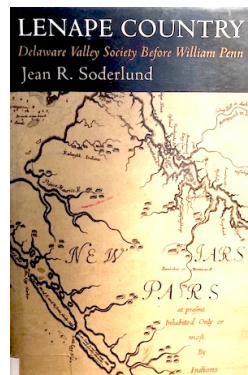


By 1687 Thomas Holme, Penn's official land surveyor produced this map (<https://www.loc.gov/item/82690543/>)  
 According to statistics cited in "Pennsylvania, A History of the Commonwealth" the Pennsylvania population had swelled from 680 in

1680 to 11,450 in 1690 with over 2,000 being in the town of Philadelphia. By the way, on the Holmes map is a large plot sold to an ancestor of a current Middletown Meeting member that extends from one side of present day Penncrest High School all the way down to Ridley Creek. The signed deed from William Penn is hanging on a wall in his home.

From the Holmes' map you see a process we now call "gentrification". In the Lenapehoking countryside this process, in part, eventually forced the Lenape to emigrate further and further away from their homeland.

Jean R. Soderlund's "Lenape Country - Delaware Valley Society Before William Penn" (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015) is a revealing examination of the original inhabitants of Lenapehoking along the Lenapewihittuk River and their interaction with the Dutch, Swedish, and English colonialists along with their indigenous neighboring tribes, from the Susquehannocks to the southwest and the Iroquois to the north.



Soderlund explores this relationship from the time when the Lenape met Dutch traders in 1615 to the troubled times of the mid 18th century when western Lenape had joined the French fighting the English, and the Lenape who'd remained in western Jersey tried their best to maintain their culture amidst a suspicious and antagonistic majority. In between there is a thorough description of a decentralized, egalitarian, and peaceful polity who quietly but forcefully dominated their regional political space. Of the nine chapters in the book only two deal with the interaction of the Lenape with Penn and his offspring. The majority of the book is given over to the

complex relationships which the Lenape had with the Dutch, Finnish, Swedish and early English settlers.

Here are two quotes from Soderlund's introduction, both from page 4:

*For the Quaker founders of Pennsylvania, their descendants of the mid-eighteenth century, and historians in subsequent centuries, Delaware Valley history began in 1681 when Penn received his charter from Charles II.*

*Like other founding myths that ignored the history of Native Americans prior to European colonization, the Pennsylvania legend wiped away the Lenapes' own history prior to contact with Europeans as well as the sixty-five years of exchange, conflict, accommodation, and alliance between the Natives and the Dutch, Swedes, Finns, and English.*

Soderlund rectifies this hole in our historical understanding of this "original" people. The Lenape relied upon an oral tradition of passing on community information, but Soderlund's meticulous research into the colonialists' own accounts of their interactions with the Lenape allows her to give us an authentic representation of that era and region (her reference endnotes alone span 35 pages). If you choose to get a copy from your local library as I did you will learn:

Selling land to colonialists was common practice with the Lenape and their terms for the sale demonstrated a high level of sophistication.

Their villages were without palisades (protective walls) indicating a lack of fear of their neighbors which speaks to their peaceable nature. Unlike the tribes of their southern or northern counterparts where conflict with New England and Virginia colonialists often turned violent.

Penn and his settlers did practice what their faith taught them regarding that of God in everyone, but this merged serendipitously with the already cooperative nature of the Lenape.

Dutch, Swedish, and Finnish settlers over the years felt comfortable with the Lenape, enough to intermingle and inter-marry and to form alliances.

For the past several weeks I have immersed myself in the study of the Lenape community of the 17th and 18th centuries. What I found was a wealth of information which greatly enlarged my view of these original inhabitants of our region. I have come to respect this culture and deeply hope that Friends can do more than "land acknowledgements" in bringing this history into our present times. Jean Soderlund's account has gone a long way in changing my perspective. – Rich Ailes, Middletown Meeting

# Concord Quarter October/November 2022 Announcements & Calendar of Events

## Announcements

The draft minutes from our July 17 Quarterly Meeting at Westtown are on the website:

<https://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes> Please send any comments about those minutes to the Recording Clerk, Marty Boston, at [mboston0916@gmail.com](mailto:mboston0916@gmail.com) by October 17, 2022 so they can be presented for approval at the October 23rd Quarterly Meeting.

PYM's Children and Families Program has a number of events including Community Playdates. For info and to register: <https://www.pym.org/children/events/>

Pendle Hill has a number of programs available: <https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/>

Friends General Conference now has year-round programs for children and youth, programs for Friends of Color, virtual worship opportunities and more: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/events/>

## Calendar of Events

For Updates and Future events with the Quarter visit: <http://concordquarter.org/quartercalendar/>

- Oct 16 7:00 pm **Fall Festival Hayride: We are at 50% capacity so please sign-up ASAP!**  
<https://concordquarter.org/hayride2022>
- Oct 18 7:00 pm **CQ Working Group on Climate Action:** 7:00 PM via ZOOM. For ZOOM link email: [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) or [kline.paula@gmail.com](mailto:kline.paula@gmail.com) For upcoming events: <https://concordquarter.org/climate-action>
- Oct 21 to Oct 23 **Young Adult Friends Fall Retreat 2022:** Calling all Young Adult Quakers and Seekers ages 18-35ish in the Philadelphia area and beyond. All are welcome to join us for our annual Fall retreat. The theme is storytelling.  
<https://www.pym.org/event/young-adult-friends-fall-retreat-2022/>
- Oct 23 8:30 am-1:00 pm **Concord Quarterly Meeting via Zoom**, hosted by Middletown Monthly Meeting in person and via ZOOM. To Register for Business Meeting and Our Program (Sandra Boone, from PYM First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative; **Being Called to the Spirit of the Original Peoples.**)  
<https://concordquarter.org/nextqm-pastqm/2022/qm-at-middletown>
- Oct 30 7:00 pm **CQ Planning Committee via Zoom.** Open to all interested in the activities and workings of Concord Quarter. Contact the Coordinator with questions and for the Zoom link at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)
- Nov 2 10:30 am **CQ Working Group on Aging Concerns:** Open to anyone interested in aging concerns. For more info and to register email: [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) or [evelynlbrownlee@gmail.com](mailto:evelynlbrownlee@gmail.com)
- Nov 5 **PYM Continuing Sessions:** visit <https://www.pym.org/event/fall-continuing-sessions/> for more info.
- Nov 6 10 am-11am **PYM All Together Worship:** PYM members and attenders will gather all together on Zoom — from meeting houses and from homes for those who join their meeting for worship online.  
<https://www.pym.org/event/all-together-worship-fall/>
- Nov 7 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm **Embracing Spiritual Gifts - First Monday Lecture with Adria Gulizia:** Preparing ourselves to recognize, welcome, and nurture gifts of ministry among us. On Pendle Hill Zoom, registration required.  
<https://pendlehill.org/events/embracing-spiritual-gifts/>
- Nov 12 11 am to 3:30 pm **Eco-Justice Thread Gathering:** Come take your seat at the table as we discern together how to move forward in addressing climate catastrophe. For more info: <https://www.pym.org/event/eco-justice-thread-gathering/>

Sign Up ASAP for Our  
Fall Hayride



<https://concordquarter.org/hayride2022>





# Concord Quarterly Meeting October 23, 2022 - Middletown Meeting

Hybrid event – Zoom/In Person




8:30-9:45  
10:00-11:00  
10:00-11:00  
11:00-12:00  
12:00-1:00

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business  
PYM First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative Program

Children's Program  
Meeting for Worship

Refreshments at Meeting/ Zoom Social Time

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tdu6hqDgvGNUV4kror1dmAx5tdJKUKpft>

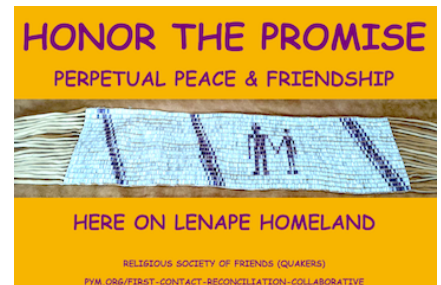


*Being Called to the Spirit* *Of the Original Peoples*



Join First-Contact Reconciliation Collaborative Facilitator, Sandra Boone Murphy, for an informative presentation of what this PYM group is doing to assist our regional First Peoples' tribes and ancestors. Sandra is a member of Atlantic City Area Meeting. She is an educator who has taught in a wide variety of institutions in the Delaware Valley. Sandra is of Scheyichbi, ascribed an "extended family" member by the Nanticoke-Lenape Tribal Nation. She is also a member of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. *Middle and High*

*School Youth are encouraged to participate in the "Being Called to the Spirit of the Original Peoples" Program.*



For children PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade: Games, Stories, and Questions to Explore "Perpetual Peace & Friendship." We'll explore a story about the Lenape people who both walked in the past and walk among us today. How are young Friends called to live in ways that create equity, justice, and peace? How are we all called to the intentions of the Treaty of Shackamaxon today? The Program will be Onsite and also available on Zoom here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83847399978>

Please register here for Children's Program:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYqGY5-hsXCO9UCY7TTgOd0IXqmUSmki0ufkyCOAOBrkRS8g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYqGY5-hsXCO9UCY7TTgOd0IXqmUSmki0ufkyCOAOBrkRS8g/viewform?usp=sf_link)

For more info go to <https://concordquarter.org/nextqm-pastqm/2022/qm-at-middletown>

You can also email Bianca Santini Dumas, Coordinator, at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)

or call (267) 632-7770 and leave a message.

CQM October zoom: Please register at this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tdu6hqDgvGNUV4kror1dmAx5tdJKUKpft>

## Concord & Western Quarterly Meeting via Zoom July 17, 2022 – Westtown - Minutes

**Opening Worship** - Christopher McKenney, Assistant Clerk, opened the meeting with silent worship.

**Welcome to Newcomers** - There were no newcomers present today.

### **Monthly Meeting Count (Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown, Wilmington)**

All the meetings in the Quarter were represented except for Concord and Goshen. A total of seventeen people were in attendance for the business meeting in person and on-line.

**Approval of Agenda** - The agenda was approved as written.

**Approval of Minutes from April 24, 2022** - The minutes from April 24<sup>th</sup> were approved with the addition of a note of appreciation to Birmingham Meeting for hosting Quarterly Meeting in April.

**Joys and Challenges Report (To be reported in October)** The Joys and Challenges Report from Willistown will be presented at the October Meeting.

**Report from The Hickman (attached)** - Martha Boston, a Hickman Board Member presented the annual report from the Hickman. The report was accepted with appreciation.

**Treasurer's Report (attached)** - Charles Spadoni, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report. This was a year-end report as the financial year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Friends Fiduciary funds are down due to stock variations. The Treasurer received \$4,225 of covenant payments after June 30, 2022, but before July 12, 2022. That revenue is being treated as having been received on June 30, 2022. One constituent monthly meeting fulfilled its financial covenants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, in the first quarter of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. That same constituent meeting has failed to fulfill the full amount of its financial covenants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. The issue will be reviewed by the Concord Quarter Planning Committee. In September 2021, the amount of \$10,795 in the Tuition Operating Fund was distributed to three Quaker Schools (Westtown, West Chester Friends School, and Wilmington Friends School) in the form of grants for the benefit of 17 students. Each grant was for \$635. Friends accepted the report with gratitude.

**Nominating Committee Report** - Deb Wood said the Nominating Committee is taking the summer off. Rich Ailes, Lisa Vosburgh, and Julie Senko are on the Nominating Committee. They are continuing to look for a clerk for the Quarter.

**Working Group on Aging Concerns (attached)** - Evelyn Brownlee presented the report from the Working Group on Aging Concerns. Evelyn thanked Lori Worth for all her help with the group. Evelyn said that the Working Group on Aging Concerns is not meeting in August. Friends accepted the report with gratitude.

**Climate Action Working Group (attached)** - Paula Kline presented the report from the Climate Action Working Group. Paula said the group is meeting monthly. The focus is on disaster preparedness plans for Meetings in the Quarter. On July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4 PM there will be a meeting to focus on writing the disaster plans for the meetings and for individuals' homes. People should let the coordinator know that they want the Zoom link to attend this meeting. The Climate Action Working Group is encouraging attendees to share a draft of their work with their home meetings. Not all the meetings in the Quarter have sent representatives to the Climate Action Working Group's meetings. On November 6<sup>th</sup> the group hopes to have an inter-generational meeting about how to work together to help the environment. Paula is looking for people who would like to work on the inter-generational meeting. One attendee noted that November 6<sup>th</sup> is the weekend of PYM continuing sessions. Paula will review the date. Paula said that there are links on the Quarter's Web site and on the Quarter's YouTube channel to some of their presentations. Friends accepted the report with appreciation.

**Coordinator Report (attached)** - Bianca Santi-Dumas presented the report from the Concord Coordinator's Report. Bianca has been visiting various Meetings. She is doing a joint workshop with Westtown and Delaware Valley Friend's School. She has been attending workshops with PYM. She wrote an article for the Quarter's Newsletter about our social media. She encouraged Friends to engage with the Quarter's Facebook page and "like" the posts. The YouTube channel can be reached by searching "Concord Quarterly Quakers" or "Quarterly Quakers." All the pages reference back to our website. Friends can subscribe to the Quarter's YouTube Channel by searching "Quarterly Quakers" and then hit subscribe to see information about the Quarter and to see other information about Quakers. Bianca has compiled statistics about how frequently the various social media channels have been accessed. The group thanked Bianca for all the work that she has been doing with social media. Friends accepted Bianca's report with appreciation.

**An item for discussion or sharing: Equity Funding - Paula Kline** - Paula said she received a grant from the Shoemaker Fund to fund a program about equity for Concord Quarter and Western Quarter. She said that she partnered with a group that does workshops on Equity Centered Meeting Design. In September, she will start interviews with meeting clerks about equity. The funding will provide for three workshops to focus on: (1) clerking in the meetings, (2) how to work in the community, and (3) how to apply these ideas generally. After six months, there will be follow-up with the meetings to see how the ideas were applied. Paula said that the dates for the workshops will be forthcoming, and she hopes that 30 people will sign-up to attend. Paula said that she will come to the Concord Quarter Planning Committee on July 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Reading of Minutes for Approval** - Marty Boston reported that the minutes from April were approved with the addition that Friends thanked Birmingham Meeting for hosting the April Quarterly Meeting.

**Second Count of Meetings in Attendance** - At the second count 17 people were in attendance. All Meetings were represented except Concord and Goshen. The Acting Clerk thanked Westtown Meeting for hosting today's joint quarterly meeting with Concord and Western Meetings. The next quarterly meeting will be held on October 23, 2022 at Middletown Monthly Meeting. Meeting for business ended with silent worship. - **Respectfully submitted, Martha Boston, Recording Clerk**

### **Hickman Friends Senior Community of West Chester - Annual REPORT 7/17/2022**

The Hickman Friends Senior Community of West Chester is pleased to bring this report to the Quarter, particularly this year as we rebound, reimagine, and refocus our strategic vision for the future.

As a Quaker Inspired, mission driven, single site entity, we must continue to challenge ourselves to keep our most valuable commodity, our seniors, front of mind while formulating a viable, long-range design for our future.

The Jeanes building which opened in 2018 has endured the challenges of building census amid the pandemic and is currently at 89% occupancy. Our Darlington unit which serves those with memory impairment has remained fully occupied and thriving. To assist our already highly acclaimed memory program, we will begin training staff in The Montessori Inspired Lifestyle facilitated by The Center for Applied Research in Dementia. This programming has been made possible by a grant received from Friends Foundation for the Aging for which we are extremely grateful.

A recent MEP of our historic Hickman building reveals the need for upgrades to our mechanical infrastructure to remain fully functional, cost efficient and environmentally conscious. The climate of the current economy and the price of goods weighs heavily on the decision-making process. Thoughtful strategic conversations will continue between Board and Leadership to discover the best path forward to ensure a thriving, durable use of the building with safe, accessible, and reliable accommodations for seniors for many years to come.

The prior two years have exacerbated a longstanding challenge around recruiting and preserving qualified team members to serve our residents. These front-line staff are the "heart of aging services," and we cannot exist without them. Fully understanding how valuable these professionals are, we are committed to embarking on workforce development programs made possible and available through advocacy groups such as PALA and Argentum. Investment in career ladders and mentor programs will allow us to attract, train and retain team members to ensure high quality services and supports in our community continue.

We continue synergies with West Chester University, Harcum College and Fortis School of Nursing providing a clinical site and service-learning opportunity for local students. Our community bond is strengthened by these partnerships and our residents greatly benefit from additional opportunities which provide purposeful outcomes for both participants. Our intergenerational experience with the Friends School has been temporarily thwarted however we look forward to the day that we can welcome the children back to the community without health safety concerns.

Another realization over the last 2 years is the value of technology within our walls. We initiated new platforms to inform families in "real time" of the robust programming that residents were engaging in allowing for picture sharing and message boards. Additionally, we are establishing our own in-suite television channel to keep residents informed, entertained, and engaged in community happenings in the comfort of their rooms. Residents also participated in virtually learning opportunities yielding college credits proving the adage that you are never too old to learn something new! Our population remains inquisitive, enlightened, and fulfilled. These accessions not only complement our in-person programming but will aid in minimizing disruptions in socialization moving forward with the unpredictability our current community health situation holds.

We approach this next period of change with optimism and intention, fully understanding that our industry is rapidly changing and highly competitive but remains in great demand. Given this knowledge, we recognize the investment of time necessary to develop a larger group of supporters and donors to assist us to position for the future.

In sharing this report to the Quarter, we would like to acknowledge those individuals and Meetings who continue to support our efforts through financial contributions. Additionally, our work is strengthened through the staunch support of the following Concord Quarter Friends on our 11-member board of directors: Betsy Stratton from Middletown Meeting; Marty Boston from Birmingham Meeting; Evelyn Brownlee and Chenda Davidson from Wilmington Meeting; Dean O'Bannion and Diana Hodgson from Willistown Meeting; These Concord Quarter Friends are joined by Matt Krasney of Falsington Meeting, and Hank Schellenger of Valley Friends. We would also like to acknowledge Andrea Taylor, a member of Wilmington Meeting for her dedication and service. We would welcome the participation of other Friends who are interested in our mission and are able to deeply engage in the work of governance at a time of significant rebirth.

In closing, the next year will bring about welcomed change, and another year of welcoming new residents into our service. We are grateful and appreciative of the support and encouragement from Concord Quarter Friends.

*Submitted by Martha Boston, Member of the Board of Directors, on behalf of Betsy Stratton Chair, Board of Directors*

#### **Concord Quarterly Meeting Working Group on Aging Concerns Report 7/17/2022**

The Working Group on Aging continues to meet monthly. Currently the group is scheduling a death doula for a presentation at an upcoming meeting. We will evaluate the subject and presentation and determine if we will offer a workshop on the subject. Another workshop being explored includes looking at the spiritual aspects of aging, possible to include a panel discussion.

The group is also exploring workshops and retreats offered by the New York Yearly Meeting ARCH (Aging, Resources, Consultation, Help) group. The subcommittee on senior housing options continues to meet regularly.

The Working Group will not meet in August. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 7, at 10:00 via Zoom. All are welcome to attend.

For more information, you can contact Bianca Santini-Dumas at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) or the clerk, Evelyn Brownlee: [evelynbrownlee@gmail.com](mailto:evelynbrownlee@gmail.com) or visit <http://concordquarter.org/aging-concerns>

#### **Concord Quarterly Meeting - Climate Action Working Group Report 7/17/2022**

The CAWG has met monthly. We are supporting the completion of natural disaster preparedness plans for our Meetings. There was a program held on protecting ourselves and buildings from flooding and tornadoes in May. The final formal session is being held on July 23 at 4pm (zoom) with a focus on spiritual care and worship during disasters and their aftermath.

Looking ahead we are working on an intergenerational gathering on climate action on November 6<sup>th</sup> which seeks to call forth participation from our Quaker institutions which serve all ages – schools, meetings and retirement communities. We welcome participation in this from those beyond our working group. We will meet to concretize plans on July 19 7pm.

In addition, we have been trying to share useful information on climate and climate solutions on the CQ Facebook page.

We have an interest in supporting everyone with the weight of the climate crisis and recommend following opportunities to address our grief and to learn how to find hope. Workshop and worship opportunities are offered periodically by these groups:

Pendle Hill, PA IPL <https://paipl.us/>, Mainline PA IPL <https://paipl.us/tag/main-line-ipl/> &

The Work That Reconnects <https://workthatreconnects.org/>

We ask each meeting to invite those under the concern for environmental stewardship to consider joining us. For more information, you can contact Bianca Santini-Dumas at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) or visit <http://concordquarter.org/climate-action>

*Editor's Note: Minutes here are abridged. Complete minutes are on our website at <https://concordquarter.org/documents?category=Minutes> For a full unredacted Treasurer's report please email our coordinator at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)*

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter**  
**Volume 19 Issue 4 October 2022**

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**Concord Quarter Meetings**

Appoquinimink Preparative (Under Care of Wilmington MM)  
Birmingham  
Chichester Meetinghouse (Under Care of Concord MM)  
Concord  
Goshen  
Middletown  
West Chester  
Westtown  
Willistown  
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