



Plymouth Monthly Meeting Newsletter

Meetings for Worship

First Day Plain worship, no Zoom, 10-11
 First Day Meeting blended worship: 11:15 am
Fourth Day Meeting: 7:00 pm (blended)

Address: 2150 Butler Pike,
 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

September 2022

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Sept 2022

Fri	Sept 9	7:00 pm	Peace and Social Concerns (blended)
Sun	Sept 11	6:00 pm	Worship & Ministry via Zoom
Sun	Sept 18	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sat	Sept 24	9 am – 1pm	AFSC Flea Market at Gwynedd Friends Meeting
Sun	Sept 25	12:30 pm	Friendly Fourth – John Cardina will discuss his book <i>Lives of Weeds</i> (blended)

October 2022

Sun	Oct 2	9:00 am	Abington Quarterly Meeting at Norristown (and it's World Quaker Day!)
Tues	Oct 4	7:00 pm	Care & Concern via Zoom
Fri	Oct 7	7:00 pm	Peace and Social Concerns
Sun	Oct 9	6:00 pm	Worship & Ministry via Zoom
Sun	Oct 16	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	Oct 23	12:30 pm	Friendly Fourth

- All First Day Meetings for Worship will begin at 10:00 (Plain worship, no Zoom) and 11:15 am (blended worship). Masks are not required but we will continue to social distance. **Check the website for updates**
- Wednesday evening Meeting for Worship begins at 7:00pm and will also be held via Zoom as well as *in person in the Meetinghouse (blended)*.

PMM Zoom information always available at plymouthmonthlymeeting@gmail.com or contact Dave Miller

Queries for June

Nurturing Our Community: Religious Education in the Home and Meeting

- How does our meeting prepare its members, attenders and children for worship, for the conduct of its business and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends?
- What opportunities do we provide for all in the meeting to learn about Friends' history, practices and testimonies, the Judeo-Christian tradition, the life and teachings of Jesus, and other religious traditions?
- How does our meeting's religious education program provide experiential learning that enhances the sense of belonging to our worshipping community?

How do I help create a home where all members of the family receive affection and understanding and where visitors are welcome?

How does my manner of living enrich body, mind and spirit; enable all to learn what it means to live a life of Spirit-led commitment; and demonstrate a high regard for family, community and the integrity of creation?

How do I engage with my family and others who are dear to me regarding such sensitive topics as death, faith, money, sex and drugs?

News from the Meeting

Friendly Fourth September 25 featuring author John Cardina

Our discussion of member-authored books continues on September 25th after Meeting and before our Friendly Fourth meal. John Cardina will present his book *Lives of Weeds: Opportunism, Resistance, Folly*. Bring your questions about those pestiferous plants that frustrate efforts to nourish body and soul. Join a free discussion of the history, biology, ecology, and absurdity of weedy plants and human efforts to control them. Copies of the book are available in the Meeting library.

First Day School Returning this Fall (beginning September 11th)

Fran Blackstone and Sally Bishop wish to welcome members and attenders from Meeting who would like to get involved with the youth of our Meeting. Please consider an opportunity to share your inner light with our children and an opportunity to get to know each other better. Fran and Sally would like to see members take turns once a month spending time with our children during First Day. They will be keeping notes on what they have been doing each week in the First Day closet, you can share your own Quaker experience or ask them for suggestions on what you might do for First Day. **First Day is only offered during our 11:00 Meeting for Worship.** Children leave Meeting at 11:30 going into the Annie H. Wilson room until about 12-12:15. The children will begin this fall with learning to write in journals and studying aspects of the Quaker Testimonies – Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship of the Earth. These are great topics for you to share your personal experience with. Please let us know when you want to join us for First Day!

News from Dave Miller

Troubles in River City when blending Meeting for Worship

Friends, we are sorry for the failure of our technology to blend onsite worship with those joining from a distance using the Zoom Conferencing. Over the past 4 weeks we have had a variety of issues that seem to be rooted in recent Microsoft and Zoom security updates. We have sought outside help and are working through the issues. Last week we thought all was OK and then once again we could not join the audio in the Meeting House. We will continue to work through these issues and ask for the Monthly Meeting's patience.

Is there a cat in the house?

Over the past two years people have notice the smell of cat urine in the Annie H Wilson wing and occasionally in the Meeting House. This summer the smell became much stronger causing some people to leave meetings being held in the Annie H Wilson room and for some of the groups who use that room in the evening to complain. They have said that unless addressed they would be unable to continue using the room.

During the summer we have searched the crawl spaces multiple times for any indication of animals burrowing in or taking up residence in the crawlspaces. None was found. We did find that a ground hog had set up residence along the back wall of the Meeting House. She has been persuaded to move on and the burrow was collapsed along its length and filled with compacted stone. No evidence yet of a yearning on her part to return. The smell however has not been eliminated with this action. We have been recording the levels of humidity in the crawl spaces. The levels exceed 50% which is the point that mold can begin growing. At the worst of the summer heat and humidity we have measure as high as 85%.

Short term actions we have taken include installing a fan to ventilate the crawl spaces 24 hours a day. This has helped to lower the intensity of the smell but not eliminate it.

Long term fix is to separate the crawlspace from the ground by encapsulation using a vapor barrier, address the humidity in the crawlspaces with dehumidifiers and to add a sump pump to the boiler room. These actions will be expensive (at this time estimated to be 30 to 50,000 dollars). We have obtained two quotes and are seeking outside professional advice before proceeding. We hope to proceed in the early Fall before it is too cool to keep windows open.

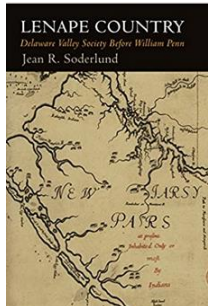
New books for the library

Modern Friends are being challenged to separate myth of our historical good intentions to live out our faith from the reality that some actions were indeed Spirit-led and others were guided by self-centered actions. It is important that we learn from the past both good and bad so that we can evaluate our own actions and readjust as needed. An honest telling of our history helps us to understand the Light of God's Will more faithfully in choices of the actions before us today. When possible, books that are particular to Quaker history on these topics will be purchased (example in the library now- Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice). An area of history that the Meeting Library continues to strive to provide reading resources about is the variety of aspects about racism. This month's addition focuses on indigenous people's history

Since the beginning of Europeans coming to North and South American continent (known as Turtle Island by the indigenous people who lived here for about 12,000 years) our history has been a mixture of the worst of colonialism and good intentions. Four books have been purchased to help us better understand our relationship to the original people of this land who

suffered while Europeans prospered, who continue to live among us and continue to be exploited and diminished by our laws and local racist actions. Books to help us know history through the eyes of indigenous peoples and early generations of Quakers:

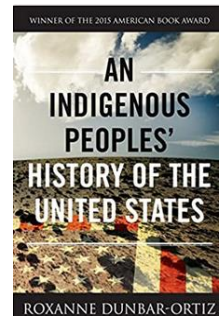
Lenape Country: Delaware Valley Society Before William Penn (Early American Studies)



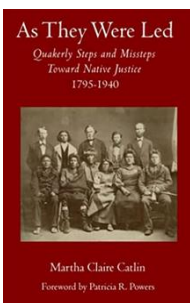
This book provides the history of the Lenape people from the arrival of Europeans to the arrival of Penn. It provides a history of the Lenape people as they interfaced with and developed a mutual relationship with the Dutch, Swedish and Finnish traders 50 years before Penn. A relationship not based on taking of land but on trading. This relationship radically changed with the arrival of Penn. The Lenape lived in the area that we now live. Some Lenape people continue to live among us. Their history has not been told and in many cases purposefully destroyed. This book provides a glimpse into a portion of that history.

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States

This book is a history of the United States from the factual events and writings of indigenous people who lived here and were swept aside as Europeans pushed across the country in full belief of their manifest destiny to occupy it. It is not the history of our high school. It is “a history of settler colonialism—the founding of a state based on the ideology of white supremacy, the widespread practice of African slavery, and a policy of genocide and land theft.” This book provides for us (those of European descent) a window into a history of indigenous peoples – our neighbors – through events that we likely were not taught.



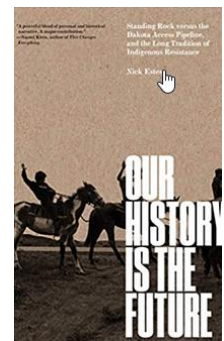
As They Were Led: Quakerly Steps and Missteps Toward Native Justice: 1795-1940



Martha Claire Catlin has written a book from the documented interactions of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and indigenous communities from 1795-1940. It is a clear-eyed book looking at both the good and the missteps that occurred in those interactions. It acknowledges that the goal of the Yearly Meeting was to seek justice for native nations and native individuals was not and has not been achieved. It is hoped that a useful knowledge of the past will foster empowerment towards this goal in the future.

Our History Is the Future: Standing Rock Versus the Dakota Access Pipeline, and the Long Tradition of Indigenous Resistance

Using the Standing Rock resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline (2016) the author Nick Estes unfolds the recent events of state supported White Nationalism in the context of the long history of genocidal wars and colonial institutions. This is a book of current “Indigenous protesters fighting to protect their ancestral land and uphold their historic values of clean land and water for all humans.” The wrongs of our prior generations continue today. The statement “Our History is the Future” can be a call for all peoples to create a just future for the people who live today. If the call is not heard the past continues to be repeated with all its injustice.



News from the Quarter



@ Gwynedd Friends Meeting

Please add to your calendars Saturday, September 24, 2022, for the next AFSC Flea Market. The sale is 9-1 at Gwynedd Friends (across William Penn Inn and Foulkeways). They are looking for donations of complete puzzles (meaning ALL pieces included) and fun board games. There will be plenty of excellent quality shoes and women's clothing available to start your Fall season wardrobe off right, as well as houseware and jewelry. If you would like to volunteer

or donate games/puzzles, please contact Linda Gist, Stacy Kent Wyckoff, or Christopher Mrozinski. christophermrozinski@gmail.com

News from Annual Meeting & Beyond

Fall Religious Education: "Rethinking First Day School" Thursday, September 22, 7-8:30 PM

How are we called to re-think and re-envision how religious education programs invite children and youth into spiritual community and nurture their Quaker identity? Has the experience of the pandemic — with its interruptions and disruptions to "the way we've always done things" — led us to the threshold of something new? What does it look like to shift away from a scholastic model toward one that centers experiential learning and worship?

Join Friends for a presentation and discussion exploring the roots of Quaker religious education and our condition in meetings today. Pre-register at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkfu2qqzkjGtCOKgHCjuCq4Q8ZDDno1Rt8>

For more info on programs for families and youth visit pym.org, News & Events, Calendar

EQUATE (Earth Quaker Action Team)

(excerpt from Sept. newsletter) Because we are entering such a busy season — and let's face it, back to school time is when many of us are plotting events on our calendars — this newsletter is mostly a giant save-the-dates request. With six events in less than six weeks, we'd like to ask you to **read through the events below and register for the ones you think you can make.** <http://www.eqat.org/>

Eileen Flanagan
Director of Strategy & Partnerships
Earth Quaker Action Team

Upcoming Events

Climate Disaster Anniversary Action

Friday, September 2, 4:30pm.

Meet in front of Friends Center, [1501 Cherry St, Philadelphia, PA 19102](#) to then walk to Vine St. On the one-year anniversary of the unprecedented flooding of the Vine Street Expressway, we will highlight how climate change is impacting Philadelphia and Vanguard's role in climate destruction through its poor investment choices. [Learn more and RSVP here.](#)

General Meeting

Tuesday, September 7, 6:30-8:30pm. Zoom

Our monthly gathering to share and learn about EQAT's campaign to get Vanguard to invest for our climate and our communities.

[RSVP here for the link.](#)

Civil Disobedience & Legal Observer Training

Sunday, September 18, 4-7pm.

Williams Temple C.M.E. Church, 6439 Lindberg Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19142 Multiple issue campaigns in southeastern Pennsylvania are reaching critical escalation points, and we want to prepare together to take bold action, including civil disobedience. [Learn more and RSVP here.](#)

Indigenous Delegation Solidarity Action

Friday, September 23, 12 noon.

Meet at Cedar Hollow Park, [785 Cedar Hollow Rd, Malvern, PA 19355](#) to then walk to Vanguard headquarters. A delegation led by Indigenous people from the Peruvian Amazon is coming to Malvern to ask Vanguard leadership to end its complicity with Petroperú, the latest oil company to exploit their region. [Learn more and RSVP here.](#)

Training for Worship Action

Saturday, October 1, 1-3pm.

Friends Center, [1501 Cherry St, Philadelphia, PA 19102](#). We will prepare for our October 7 action by practicing spiritual grounding, de-escalation, and other relevant skills. [Learn more and RSVP here.](#)

Meeting for Worship for Climate Action

Friday, October 7, 11:30am.

Meet on the outbound side of St David's Train Station, 53 Chamounix Rd, Wayne, PA 19087. As part of a global week of climate action by people of faith, we will be worshipping outside the home of Vanguard CEO Tim Buckley. [Learn more and RSVP here.](#)