

# Abington Quarterly Meeting Newsletter



Summer 2020

“And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,  
Slouches toward Bethlehem to be born?”

William Butler Yeats, The Second Coming

Dear Friends,

I see my various selves coming at me, media images screening in from the past; recognizing walks, bus rides, outcries - yet passed on by, and coming again.

News clips coming, pulled as sheets from a dark-room of projections; brought into being - awash in a flash-pan of acrid abuse.

When will I, any of us, come to realize the justice of inner peace, the authority of quiet acceptance – these to be posted as a national dream board.

When comes freedom from the systemically known – coming to know now our singular selves, early in innocence, mutually found.

Reformed, our errant dispositions reimagined in collective transmutation, inviolate against encroachment - as a desert courier plying the course, slouching against the wind.

Amelia Diamond  
AQ Clerk

The Following submitted by Wanda Wyffels

**First Day June 7<sup>th</sup>** was a powerful day across the Abington Quarter. We gathered together in Spirit to bear witness to the systemic racism of the present day. Bearing witness is not simply a theoretical idea of our faith but rather an action, our practice. It is making a public statement of our testimonies, in this case to peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship. Abington Friends Meeting is continuing to hold the vigil every First Day at 4pm until further notice, practicing social distancing/mask wearing and collecting food for the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry.

If you're interested in taking more action, here's a list of 75 actions for you; try one:

<https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18b0e0234>.

Moving beyond Abington Quarter, I have exciting news from PYM as well. PYM has recently approved the Antiracism Collaborative (ARC). There are currently 10 of us across 8 quarters and we hope to include more. We are just in the beginning phases, but let me share our vision, mission, and goals with you:

The vision the Antiracism Collaborative holds is of a time when Meetings within PYM have become/are welcoming and safe for all people, including people of all races and ethnicities, so that all will be nurtured and grow.

Our mission to achieve this vision is to provide accompaniment and support to meetings who seek further work on antiracism.

Our goals to achieve this mission are to:

- Develop relationships with other groups and individuals within PYM concerned with antiracism;
- Create and update resources on the Antiracism Collaborative pages of PYM's website;
- Visit meetings to invite others to join us in learning and doing antiracism work;
- Provide or assist meetings with classes, programs, and workshops on antiracism;
- Continue our own learning and encourage others to continue theirs;
- Making sure there is someone within each meeting and quarter that receives our updates/materials.

We are working on a resource list, will be getting a site on pym.org soon to house the resource list, and contacting every Meeting and Quarter to introduce ourselves and get feedback from you.

I am excited that we, as a Quarter, are involved in bearing witness to systemic racism and are willing to learn and grow so that we may truly become a welcoming and safe community for all.



***Date: August 3–7 and 10-14, 2020  
For campers entering 1st-7th grades***

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***One or Two Week Sessions***

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***by computer from the comfort  
of your home!***

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**Virtual Peace Camp August 3-14, 2020 offered by Gwynedd Meeting**

A Virtual Peace Camp is being offered by Gwynedd Meeting August 3-7 and 10-14, 2020! Your elementary school aged children will enjoy three interactive Zoom sessions per day and three

videos per week with experienced Peace Camp teachers, following the theme “Open Heart, Open Mind, Open Hands are the Keys to Peace”. Games, songs, art projects, creative problem solving, communication practice, relaxation methods and service projects all contribute to peacemaking skills and peaceful experiences. Children learn to value and appreciate themselves and others, while celebrating differences. With the guidance of teachers, they discuss how to be good stewards of the earth.

To learn more about the 2020 Gwynedd Friends Virtual Peace Camp, and to register your child for one or two weeks August 3-7 and/or 10-14, please go to [GwyneddMeeting.org/PeaceCamp.html](http://GwyneddMeeting.org/PeaceCamp.html). Tuition cost is \$100 per child per week, from which \$25 is due at the time of registration and the balance due by July 15. For scholarship assistance, please call 215-699-3055 and leave a message for Peace Camp. Checks should be made out to “Gwynedd Friends Meeting”, with “Peace Camp” and your child’s name in the memo, and mailed to Gwynedd Friends Peace Camp, 1101 DeKalb Pike, Gwynedd PA 19454. We are looking forward to this new, creative, Virtual Peace Camp experience!

<http://GwyneddMeeting.org/PeaceCamp.html>

## **Henri Nouwen: Bread for the Journey – June 22**

*Can we only speak when we are fully living what we are saying? If all our words had to cover all our actions, we would be doomed to permanent silence! Sometimes we are called to proclaim God’s love when we are not yet able to live it. Does that mean we are hypocrites? Only when our own words no longer call us to conversion. Nobody completely lives up to her or his own ideals and visions. But by proclaiming our ideals and visions with great conviction and great humility, we may gradually grow into the truth we speak. As long as we know that our lives always speak louder than our words, we can trust that our words will remain humble.*

Have we proclaimed what our best discernment of God’s love would be in the real events of each generation’s life? Yes, we have.

Have Friends fallen short of what they have proclaimed? Yes, some or all in every generation.

Have we been humble and admitted when we have fallen short? Some times.

With God’s guidance and grace may we, from prayerful silence speak publicly to the needs of our times and humbly strive to live consistently to what we speak.

David Miller

**The Abington Quarter Home & Care Committee** announces two important changes in our process to meet the needs of Friends which may arise during this difficult time due to job loss, illness, loss of business, or other financial problems caused by this pandemic. Please note that this assistance does not apply to school tuition.

1. The Guideline requiring active membership for at least 3 years is being temporarily relaxed until 12/31/20. Any member of a Monthly Meeting in Abington Quarter may apply for assistance during this time.
2. Under a new agreement with The Abington Quarterly Meeting Fund, Home & Care will now be able to provide assistance to Active Attenders of all Monthly Meetings in Abington Quarter. Application for assistance and all processing will be handled in full confidentiality by the Home & Care Committee, following our present Guidelines.

Home & Care is hopeful that we will be able to ease the financial burden of some of our Members and Attenders through these changes. We are grateful to the Abington Quarterly Meeting Fund for offering to assist us in reaching out to Attenders, since the funds available to us are restricted to Members. Please pass this information along to anyone in your meeting who may be experiencing financial loss during this time.

If you have any questions, or to apply for funding, contact:

Rebecca Cratin, Administrator  
AQM Home & Care Committee  
215-542-8738  
[rhcratin@cratin.com](mailto:rhcratin@cratin.com)



Join us 2nd day eighth month 2020  
8-2-20

**Virtual Abington Quarterly Meeting for Worship for Business**

9:00am Quarterly Meeting with concern for Business

10:00am Meeting for Worship

11:15am Reconvene our Business Agenda

Our gathering will focus on sharing in plenary.

We will consider two timely issues:

1. What do you envision for your Meeting in using Virtual Media?
2. How are we as a Quarter responding to Systemic Racism?

Our thanks to Byberry & Upper Dublin Meetings for hosting our session.

## PEACEFUL PROTEST A SUCCESS

RFM's first Peaceful Protest in support of Black Lives Matter was a greatly supported event. About 35 people were there including three Friends from UNAMI and several friends of Friends. We stood or sat on our property behind the wall and around the corner past our permanent signs. With a large turnout, other Friends went a stood on 309.

We only experienced three or four people who heckled us or made signs of their own (ahem). But we were heartened by the majority of people, young and old who drove by and honked in support and flashed the peace sign.

We gathered the signs which are now in the Schoolhouse for future use. Friends should discuss how they want to do this going forward. We also sold six T-shirts and the money will go to Food For Friends which starts up this month.

Thanks to all Friends who supported this important ongoing need to stand up for peace and equality.

*Friends from Richland Meeting and photo contributions from across the Quarter. More photos on each MM's website.*











[Click Here](#) to View a Video of this Protest **Videography** by John Flak





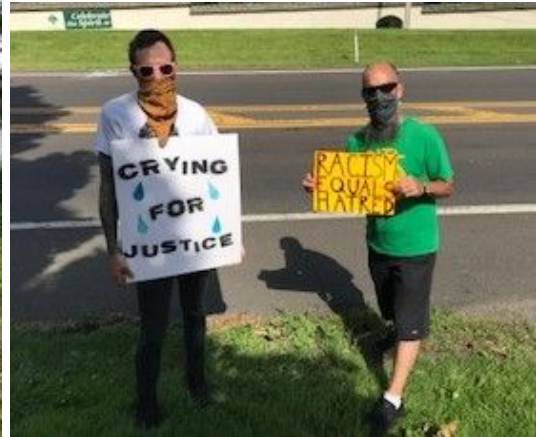












Here is a link for Gwynedd MM's June 7th vigil photos:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/bN5whMEvYwzkGLxH8>





**Around the Quarter:** Please check out Abington Quarter's website <http://www.abingtonquarter.org/>

Plymouth Meeting's newsletter is hot off the press!

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/?zx=rs262123ndn2#inbox/FMfcgxwHNqGtbKFXbzsCdQXvBwbQlGzj?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

## Norristown Friends Meeting

On June 5, A group of friends held a peace vigil @ **Norristown Friends Meeting**.

We shared our concerns and prayers for the latest police brutality death.

We met for about an hour. Weather kept us under neath our porch.

It was our first gathering/meeting in person since the Covid crisis started 3 months ago.

It was refreshing being together, while we used social distancing and masks.

We shared how many Friends have been led to champion

Equality, Social Justice and Peace

We were blessed with many veterans of peace vigils of the past and a new attender who wanted to do something

to reconcile his concerns.

The evening was little rainy but it didn't dampen our need to be where our hearts wanted us to be .

NMM is still zooming our meetings for worship, but have started to meet outdoors using masks and social distancing. Looking how we will move forward.

Kelly Green ,clerk NMM

Here are some links to Friends Journal for interesting articles:

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/change-voices/>

<https://friendsjournal.org/quaker-antiracist-reading-list/>



<https://www.pym.org/annual-sessions/>

## AQ Business Calendar

### 2020

Aug 2, 2020	..... Abington.....	Virtual Quarterly Meeting (Picnic Canceled)
Aug 23, 2020	.....Richland.....	Representative Meeting
Oct 4, 2020	.....Gwynedd.....	Quarterly Meeting
Nov 1, 2020	.....Foulkeways.....	Representative Meeting



### Monthly Meetings for Business Days and Times

Abington: 2nd First Day check calendar  
 Unami: 2nd First Day, 9 a.m.  
 Richland: 2nd First day, 12 noon  
 Plymouth: 3rd First Day, 9 a.m.  
 Gwynedd: 3rd First day, 10:45 a.m.  
 Byberry: Last First day, 10 a.m. unless otherwise arranged  
 Horsham: Last First day, 11 a.m. unless otherwise arranged; Soup Sunday follows  
 Upper Dublin: M4B is 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun at 9.

Please see Abington Quarter's website <http://www.abingtonquarter.org/>  
for AQ Minutes and updates on Meeting for Business.

To all the contributors to this newsletter, please know that your time and interest is very much appreciated. If anyone would like to submit photos, articles, essays or the like to this Newsletter, please send to both [wiseheartist@gmail.com](mailto:wiseheartist@gmail.com) and [aqnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:aqnewsletter@gmail.com) and if possible, we will include your submission as received. Thank you!

*Margaret Anderson, Editor*