

November 18, 2023

Unami Monthly Meeting
100 East Fifth Street
Pennsburg, PA 18073

Unami Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



Calendar

This Month

Nov. 19, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

Nov. 26, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

Future:

Dec. 3, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

Dec. 10, Meeting for worship with a concern for
business, 9 a.m, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

Contact Unami at:

unamifriendsmeeting@gmail.com

if you would like to join us for Meeting
for Worship on Sundays at 11 a.m. on
Zoom

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next
newsletter is Dec. 15 **at 4 PM.**

This is a Friday deadline.

Send your news to danielhazelton@rcn.com.



AQM Enabling Fund

For friends who are members of Unami who may be needing short term financial assistance, funds are available from the Abington Quarter Meeting Enabling Fund.

For more information contact:

Rebecca Cratin, the Administrator of the Home and Care Committee,
215-542-8738

rhcratin@cratin.com

or

Marietta Quinby, representative from Unami to the Home and Care Committee
215-257-4895

rmquinby@verizon.net

or

Lynn Biddle, Unami's Care of Members Committee clerk
267-377-6560

lbiddle@hotmail.com

Query for the Month of November

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?*

PYM Eco-Justice Collaborative

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Our fall series focuses on energy stewardship meetings, schools and retirement communities. Consider joining us for one of these workshops:

Part 4: [Funding for EV Charging Stations For Your Property](https://www.pym.org/event/energy-stewardship-for-friends-institutions-funding-for-ev-charging-stations-for-your-property/)

<https://www.pym.org/event/energy-stewardship-for-friends-institutions-funding-for-ev-charging-stations-for-your-property/>

December 6th 3:30 - 4:45 pm

[Register here](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvf--spjMtHtFMyt-jRnEwnpuBDc9ehe8X#/registration>

Many thanks,

Paula Kline

PYM Eco-Justice Collaborative

Code Blue Training - Sunday November 19 from 3-5 pm.

This year we currently have one location for men which will be at Bike & Sol in East Greenville. We are still working at securing a location for women and would love a family one in the future. None of this can take place until we have between 25-30 volunteers which can be male or female.

We will be hosting the training for the Code Blue volunteers of the Upper Perk area at Upper Perkiomen Community Church. It will be in the café area on the first floor of the church on Main Street in East Greenville.

Upper Perk Homeless Task Force

Doylestown Friends Meeting - Dec 3 2 pm.

The co-founders of the Coalition of Natives and Allies will be appearing at the Dec. 3 Doylestown Friends Meeting in Doylestown, PA. Join us at 2:00 p.m. for an afternoon showing of our film "Native Women and Allies Speak: What You Weren't Taught in School".

COMBINE YOUR TRIP TO DOYLESTOWN:

Perhaps combine your day with taking a look at the exhibit *never broken, Visualizing Lenape Histories* at the [Michener Museum](#), 2 blocks from Doylestown Friends Meeting where we are showing our film. Museum open on Sundays from 10-5.

Abington Friends Meeting - November 19 11:15 am.

All are welcome to a special FREE presentation hosted by the Peace & Social Justice Committee of Abington Friends Meeting on **Sunday, November 19, 2023**. Renowned Indian journalist, author and activist Niranjan Takle will speak about **Human Rights and Religious Freedom in Modern Day India**. He is touring the US and Canada and spoke at the National Press Club and in front of the White House. The presentation will begin at **11:15 AM** (Eastern Time) in the Abington Friends Meeting House, 520 Meetinghouse Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046. The presentation will also be available on Zoom. In-person guests are welcome to join us prior to the presentation for our weekly meeting for worship at 10 AM, which will be followed by a coffee break and fellowship at 11 AM. For more information, please see: <https://www.abingtonquakers.org/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=342052>

The article below was written by Lizzie Biddle, born into Unami in 1987, who is now a member of New Garden Friends Meeting in Greensboro, NC. The piece is part of a series in the New Garden Meeting newsletter profiling members who are active in social justice issues. --Lynn Biddle

I was first introduced to New Garden Friends Meeting as a Guilford College student involved in the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program (QLSP). Seventeen years later I am still grateful.

New Garden's passion for welcoming immigrants and refugees has aligned with my professional work. I spent ten years working at the Center for New North Carolinians (CNNC). When I was planning summer youth programs for 150 immigrant and refugee youth and the budget was tight, New Garden provided grants. When I knew a family could benefit from some extra attention, Cindy Knul and the Refugee Welcome team was there.

In 2021, that connection was made stronger when I served as the clerk of the Refugee Welcome Committee. After the U.S. withdrew from Afghanistan, hundreds of Afghans boarded airplanes and found their way to Greensboro over a short period of time. The local refugee resettlement agencies were overwhelmed and congregations and volunteers all over the county stepped up. New Garden not only responded with generous financial support and considerable time in co-sponsoring families, but for months a dedicated group of volunteers successfully ran a full-blown donation center in the meeting's basement. People across Guilford County brought gently used household wares, kitchen items, furniture, linens, and children's clothing for hundreds of newly arriving Afghan and refugee families to be able to set up their new homes.

I've had the privilege of serving as a representative to both the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and the Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL). This includes: helping to facilitate New Garden's participation in each body's process of setting legislative priorities, attending FCNL's Annual Meeting in D.C. (thanks to financial support from New Garden), being active in a group of Friends in the greater Piedmont Area as part of FCNL's Advocacy Team lobbying our U.S. Senators and our Representatives on issues of international peace.

In my role with FCNCL, I clerked the committee responsible for organizing FCNCL's first in-person lobby day in Raleigh in March of this year. New Garden had eight participants, the largest of any monthly meeting! We lobbied our Guilford County delegation and witnessed the deciding vote for Medicaid expansion.

Dot Mason has been my ever-present side-kick when it comes to all things advocacy. Whether it was driving to Washington together and sharing a room or being two of the handful of folks that keeps showing up to lobby Senators Tillis, Burr, and Budd even when we know they will vote in the opposite direction.

Jennifer Schaal invited me to my first meetings of the Greensboro Health Disparities Collaborative (GHDC) and the Guilford Anti-Racism Alliance (GARA). After seeing a note in the Newsletter in 2011 or 2012, I attended a small gathering of four-to-five New Gardeners at the meeting house for an informal discussion on issues of racism. My main connection to the meeting at that time was as a High School Youth Group leader which I did for five years and loved. Jennifer was a chaperone on several of our spring-break trips so I felt comfortable approaching her. It was this introduction to the existing world of racial equity

organizing in our community that opened the door for me to become a trainer with the Racial Equity Institute, the position I still hold.

New Garden's and Friends at large's commitment to grapple with issues of racism and racial equity are inspiring. Recently, other New Gardeners joined GARA's efforts to be a visible presence on the sidewalk in front of the Guilford County Board of Education meetings for equity: equity in our classrooms, equity in the curriculum and books, and equity in budget decisions.

As one of a handful of the Young Adults active with New Garden, I sometimes feel like a unicorn, unfortunately, a pattern mirrored in other Quaker spaces and activist spaces I am involved in. I often wonder where are the other young adults? What keeps me motivated? Why have I not burnt out in the way many of my peers have? What can I do to reach other young adults? What kinds of mentoring and support can I provide to the generation below me? Upon reflection I am incredibly fortunate to have had jobs that I love, to have a loving and supporting spouse and family, and to have the support of this spiritual community.

After graduating from Guilford, I did not move back home to the town I grew-up in, Quakertown, Pennsylvania. I was encouraged by the QLSP staff, Max Carter, Frank Massey, and Deborah Shaw to become a Program Assistant intern with FCNL. The following year, I moved back to Greensboro where I have been fortunate to have steady employment with organizations I love.

I have a loving and patient spouse who doesn't miss a beat when I mention I still have two more Zoom calls on a work night and "can he bring me some dinner?" _ Many of you know that spouse, Ben Lancaster, and know his family. Ben and I meet as QLSP members at Guilford and were married under the care of the meeting in 2016. He also has been fortunate to have steady work at New Garden Friends School and is currently a pre-school teacher. For my peers and for folks younger than me those things are not always a part of their lived experiences.

In addition to those financial supports and the stability I have experienced, I also credit the Quaker community at New Garden. This is a community that has long supported me, mentored me, and cheered me on.

I have learned some important lessons from each of these experiences that have allowed me to continue in this work that tends to burn people out. I have found that we are socialized and conditioned, and perhaps even more so as a millennial, to see ourselves as individuals. But justice, equity, and peace work is collective work. It takes time and it takes intention. For me

at least, seeing these things as movements beyond our lifetimes, has been liberating. I, and we, do not need to do it all. Deena Hayes-Greene, co-founder and Managing Director at the Racial Equity Institute often says, "We are doing our work in our time. We have taken the baton from the people before us, we will do that work, and we will pass it to the people who come after us."

I know that the seeds for me to understand the power of collective legacy were planted by my life-long relationship with Quakerism. I am grateful to Unami, the small unprogrammed meeting I was raised in; to the mentorship and nurturing I have felt by many elders and non-elders alike at New Garden; and the support I receive from the broader Quaker world.

Together, we can seek a world of peace, justice, and equity.



Lizzie with Parisa, a member of the first Afghan family New Garden sponsored after their arrival in October 2021.