

March 14, 2025

Unami Monthly Meeting
100 East Fifth Street
Pennsburg, PA 18073

Unami Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



Calendar

This Month

March 16, Conscientious Objection Discussion,
9:30 a.m., Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

March 23, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

March 30, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m., Pot
Luck, Rise of Meeting

Future:

April 6, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

April 12, Quakerism 101, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

April 13, Meeting for worship with a concern
for business, 9 a.m, Meeting for Worship, 11
a.m.

April 20, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

Zoom Link for Meeting
for Worship, Meeting for
Worship with a Concern
for Business and Sunday
morning Discussions.

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 April 11 **at 4 PM.**

This is Friday deadline.

Send your news to danielhazelton@rcn.com.



PRESS CONTACT

Carol Shearon moyer.shearon@gmail.com
610-608-6486

Strength through Non-violent Activism and Community

WHAT:

Showing of the movie, *Citizen George*, about the life and work of Philly activist, George Lakey, with a Q&A with Director, Glenn Holsten, and George Lakey and his daughter, Ingrid Lakey.

MORE WHAT:

Pop-up tables staffed by members of PennEnvironment; Journey Work; Power Interfaith; Family Promise; EQAT; Project Libertad; Attic Youth Center; and Manna, available before and after the movie. <https://www.gwyneddmeeting.org/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=371626>

WHY:

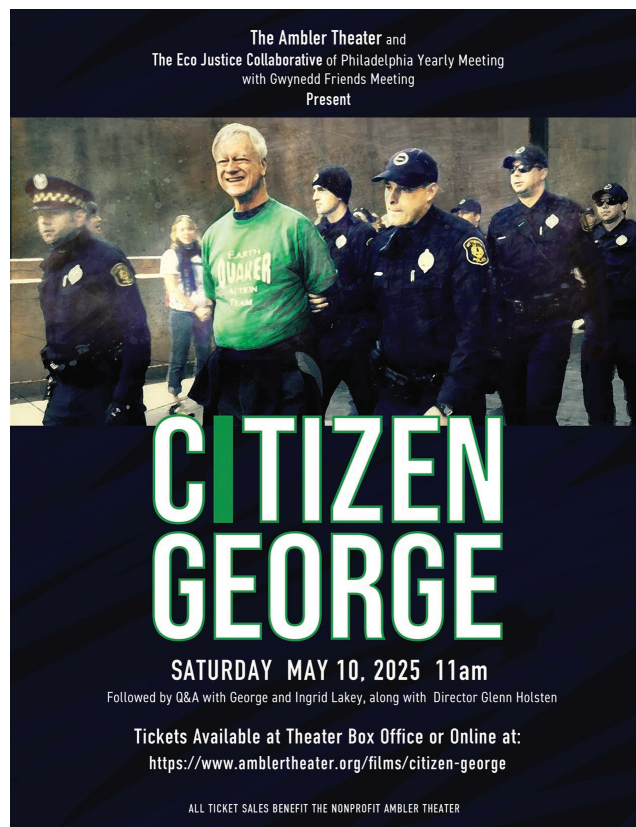
How do we reignite hope within a divided culture? How do we show our care and need for each other and work to restore community? Two Quaker women, representatives of different demographics but the same Spirit, Carol Shearon and Heather O'Malley, streamed the movie, *Citizen George*. They felt its message of non-violent activism had answers to these larger questions. Can one person make a difference? Absolutely! Unite and engage with your neighbors, and the effect of your message and your work can encourage civility and hope.

WHERE:

The historic non-profit Ambler Theater, 108 E Butler Ave. Ambler PA

WHEN:

Saturday, May 10. The movie starts at 11AM with Pop-up tables of information available one-half hour before the movie, and after the Q&A.



Conscientious Objection Discussion

March 16, 9:30 a.m.

Hello, Friends!

Our discussion this Sunday, March 16th will cover Conscientious Objection and current tools available to young friends and their families. We will cover steps for writing a Statement of conscience or Peace Testimony. Please join us at 9:30 in person or by zoom. Some excellent resources provided by the Quaker Religious Education Committee are described below:

[Conscientious Objection: Is this for you?](#) Resource Guide, by Curt Torell, PhD, Quaker House.

[Study War Some More: If you want to work for peace](#) By Chuck Fager, Quaker House.

[Extra Casualties: The Military Industrial Complex and the Uncounted Human Cost of War](#) by Mia Austin-Scoggins, Quaker House.

Quaker House, Fayetteville NC: <https://quakerhouse.org/>

[How to Become a Conscientious Objector](#), QuakerSpeak video with Curt Torell

[Steps for Writing a Statement of Conscience](#), Friends Peace Teams.

[Conscientious Objection](#), Quakers in the World. Library of the Religious Society of Friends, London.

Links to these sites are in the Conscientious Objection PDF sent out with this month's newsletter.

Worship and Ministry Committee

What drew me to Quakerism, and then on to Unami Meeting

My Mother was a Lutheran, and my family members enjoyed singing in the choir, as did I. I attended the Lutheran Church until I was confirmed and had my first communion. The Pastor at my church was a patient soul, who dealt with this verbally combative student's questions and doubts, with grace. I found that there were basic precepts in my church (think Apostle's Creed) that I didn't believe and couldn't imagine accepting. I completed my confirmation, and at that point, my mother eased up about mandatory church attendance. I was 13 when I attended my first Quaker Meeting with my sister at Bucknell College. I grew up in the western suburbs of Philadelphia and many of my friends were Quakers. I'd grown to appreciate their religious attitudes, and practices by witnessing them in my friends. I started attending Radnor Meeting regularly when I was 20 and while there I got a deeper understanding of Quaker practice. I was given a copy of Howard Brinton's Friends for 300 Years, which helped me answer many of the questions I had.

My life changes led me to attend at least a dozen Monthly Meetings, but I'd never considered joining until I was expecting my first child in 1981. I wanted a faith tradition to offer my children, and I thought I was ready for the commitment of membership. I joined Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting and remained a member until I transferred to Unami Monthly Meeting in the early 2000's. Both of my sons are recorded as birthright Friends at LVMM.

When September 11, 2001, happened, I was pretty shook up, as I work in the financial industry and knew many of the firms that were located in the World Trade Center. At that point in my life, I had strayed from Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting, and had attended a few different meetings, but hadn't found that "good fit".

On the first Sunday after 9/11 I went to Unami, seeking solace, and comfort and community. Did it find it!!! I was joyfully met at the front door by a sweet man, with a big smile, a bright red mohawk haircut and leather chaps. He gave me the nickel tour of the Meetinghouse and made me feel welcome and at ease. I later learned his name was Geoffrey Kaiser, and that the clerk of Unami was his husband. Having visited many Quaker Meetings, I had an image of what felt good at Meeting, and what made me uncomfortable.

Unami immediately felt like home. I was mentored and cared for by the elder members, and it wasn't long before I applied to transfer my membership to Unami

That mentoring led me to join the United Friends School board for over nine years, and to serve the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting on Peace and Social Concerns, Finance, Administrative Council, and to clerk the Financial Oversight Working Group, which was their audit committee. I also have served the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) on their Development, Finance, Audit, and General Committees.

Being a Friend, and, particularly a Unami Friend, has been spiritually enriching, socially meaningful, and a joy in so many ways.

If you are interested in learning more about membership, please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of the Care and Membership Committee: Lynn Biddle, Joyce Munro, Mo Nolan or myself, Joyce Moore.



Finding Peace and Hope in Spiritual Community: *Annual Spiritual Formation Retreat*

April 4 - 6, 2025

Pendle Hill | Wallingford, Pennsylvania

To register: [Spiritual Formation Spring Retreat 2025](#)



The Spiritual Formation Collaborative of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting invites you to spend a weekend of spiritual deepening, nurturing your Spiritual center, and sharing the peace and hope that lies within each of us. Marcelle Martin will help guide us. Marcelle is a Quaker author, teacher and workshop facilitator. She has written two books, ***Our Life Is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey, A Guide to Faithfulness Groups*** and three Pendle Hill pamphlets.

We will gather Friday evening for dinner and stay at Pendle Hill's Brinton House Conference Center. This beautiful Quaker retreat spans 25 acres, including a peaceful arboretum. The accommodations are comfortable, and the meals are all homemade with local organic ingredients. The weekend will include opportunities for workshop experiences, large and small group discussions and relaxation and meditation. We will close on Sunday after worship and lunch.

The cost for the weekend, including meals and lodging, will be \$265 per person or \$150 for a commuter.

Space is limited so register now [Spiritual Formation Spring Retreat 2025](#).

For more information, please contact Susan Thompson at (267) 847-6396 or srthom1031@gmail.com

This is the link to use to register:

<https://www.pym.org/event/annual-spiritual-formation-retreat-2025/>

Quakerism 101 at Unami
April 12, 10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Please join us April 12 (Saturday) from 10-2 for an opportunity to learn more about Quakerism from friends Jonathan and Melanie Snipes of Fallsington Meeting. We will cover topics like Quaker faith and practice, Quaker worship and vocal ministry, Quaker History and Quaker process. The day will be directed by queries from attendees so please submit questions ahead of time for our presenters.

Please bring a labeled potluck dish to share and financial contribution (if able) to help continue the good work they are doing at Snipes Farm
Childcare will be provided.

Please RSVP on the signup sheet at the meetinghouse or to:
Becca Munro rerebecca@gmail.com or Jenn Reimels hafvalla@yahoo.com

Worship and Ministry Committee

Unami Annual Picnic
June 1, Rise of Meeting
Upper Salford Park,
559 Salford Station Road, 19473

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

Mary Hanisch, representative from Unami to the Home and Care Committee
215-529-4317

mary.hanisch@gmail.com

or

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

lbiddle@hotmail.com

Query for the Month of March

Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Worship

- Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God?
- As we worship in the living silence, are we drawn together by the power of God in our midst? Do we experience a deep reverence for the integrity of creation?
- How does our worship nurture all worshipers, creating a deeper sense of community?
- How does our meeting encourage vocal ministry that spiritually nurtures the worshiping community?
- *Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?*
- *Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationships with other persons and with all of creation?*
- *Does worship enhance my capacity for attentive, non-judgmental listening to others?*
- *How does participation in meeting for worship contribute to my life-long spiritual journey?*

2024 Unami Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

It seems fitting that on the day scheduled to discuss our state of the meeting, there was a threat of a snowstorm that led us to move our meeting to Zoom only. And how wonderful that we have grown in our flexibility to compensate for all kinds of weather and conditions and were able to meet virtually for both our discussion and for Meeting for Worship. It is that same call to being responsive and flexible that has provided opportunities and challenges to us as our Meeting grows. Although our membership has remained nearly constant with only a slight decrease last year, the number of attenders, some frequent, has risen to over 40 adults and children!

Elise Boulding wrote in *The Personhood of Children*, “If we want to rediscover human joy and wholeness and creativity, and to learn to care for our planetary household as one earth family, we cannot continue to insulate adults and children from each other. Children need to be present to us, and we to them.” We have embraced these words wholeheartedly and are becoming what we have envisioned! Our Meeting, as one Friend reminisced, is “filled with chatter and chaos, joyful, hopeful, andwonderful.” We attribute much of this energy to a dedicated few who are working to build a robust First Day School Program and who recognize Unami as a vital source of spiritual grounding for our children. Others have followed and of course, having more children leads to more children (and parents) wanting to come.

For several years now, our Meeting has been a steady, strong meeting of mainly elders, all wondering what the future of the Meeting would hold. The frustration of too few children who infrequently attended has shifted to more children with regular attendance whose families are looking for less child care and more Quaker programming.

The young, enthusiastic parents are often new to Quakerism and unfamiliar and uncomfortable with “teaching” about Quakerism. We recognize the importance of non-parent adult influence in children’s lives as many of the elder generation’s children had experienced at Unami. We have instituted Intergenerational Meeting for Worship on the first Sunday of each month with success and enthusiasm. We recognize how this practice helps to bring our children into the structure of the meeting. We acknowledge the need for a strong First Day School Program as well as programming for adults, Quakerism 101 for example. As one Friend said, we need a “Rules of the Pool” discussion, especially for those new to Quakerism. And for all of us including those who are having difficulty finding spiritual nourishment, suggestions have included offering midweek Meetings for Worship, discussions on individual spiritual journeys or what we believe, nontheist and Universalist Quakers.

Other committees continue to meet regularly and provide the meeting with nourishment and care. Care and Membership thoughtfully considers the needs of individuals and the community. An Ad Hoc Safety Committee has been formed to consider all issues of safety for our Meeting and tasked with developing a safety policy that fits the size and capacity of our meeting.

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has continued its work on social justice and peace activities, including a discussion on Poverty by America by Matthew Desmond. They have continued updating our Black Owned Business Directory and designing banners and signs for the Meeting, including a land acknowledgement.

The Meeting has a strong presence in the local community. Each year, we designate a portion of our budget to our local social service agency, The Open Link. We are active participants in the Upper Perk Ministerium, and some of our members have helped to create a Code Blue Shelter in the Pennsburg community. We have maintained a presence in the Friends of the Delaware Tribe of Unami who sponsored a training last summer on “Right Relationship” presented by the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery.

Our Property Committee maintains the upkeep of our building and plans for future projects. The Committee has designed and built a new sign for our Meeting. The major projects that lie ahead of us are new flooring in the classrooms and bathrooms, new windows in some of the rooms, and painting the Meetinghouse.

The Carbon Forest Committee has gained the support of several conservancies and land trusts, created a website, presented at FGC and continues its work trying to acquire land and funds to build a carbon forest.

Regarding Climate Witness, members have made individual commitments in their lives, but the Meeting has not collectively. We are careful about using reusable products, we’ve changed our electric company to one that uses renewable energy, our committees meet by Zoom, we have created and support the Carbon Forest Committee, but there is no “outloud” focus on the subject.

The Worship and Ministry Committee oversees Intergenerational Worship, making sure that there is someone to lead it each month and monitors Meeting for Worship each week, making sure that someone is always available to open and close meeting in person and on Zoom. The committee also planned and organized Seasonal Celebration and works on planning discussions throughout the year.

The Outreach committee maintains our website and oversees opportunities for “inreach” and “outreach.” We maintain our ongoing commitment to those who need community and our support.

The Meeting has a strong presence in the wider Quaker community. Our members serve on Abington Quarter committees as well as PYM committees. This year, we designated funds collected during our Seasonal Celebration for Swannanoa Meeting in North Carolina whose meetinghouse was destroyed by the recent flooding.

In our discussion on the State of the Meeting, one Friend said, “I am very pleased at how alive our Meeting is; there are some Meetings that seem to be fading away; but that is not the case here. The message for the state of the Meeting is WE ARE VERY MUCH ALIVE AND EXCITED ABOUT CHANGE. GOOD ON US!

Nancy Donnelly, clerk