



# Plymouth Monthly Meeting Newsletter

## Meetings for Worship

First Day Plain Worship, no Zoom, 10-11  
 First Day Meeting blended worship: 11:15 am  
**Midweek Meeting for Worship: 7:00 pm on Wednesdays (blended)**

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## November 2024

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 thanks again to Dave & Sally  
 for their October articles

## November 2024

Sun	Nov 17	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	Nov 24	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome
Sun	Nov 24	2:00 pm	Music Circle
Wed	Nov 27	10:00 am	PMFS Thanksgiving Program held in the Gym
Thurs	Nov 28	10:00 am	Meeting for Worship for Thanksgiving

## December 2024

Tues	Dec 3	7:00 pm	Care and Concern at the Meetinghouse
Sat	Dec 7	8:30 am - 1:00 pml	Leaf Raking, Lunch provided, bring rakes
Sun	Dec 8	After Meeting	Olivia Myers will share her spiritual journey with Jesus
Sun	Dec 8	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Tues	Dec 10	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Sun	Dec 15	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	Dec 22	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome
Sun	Dec 22	2:00 pm	Music Circle
Tues	Dec 24	7:00 pm	Carol Sing, Meeting for Worship, Vigil at the Wall, wassail & cookies and good cheer

- 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. 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 [office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org](mailto:office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org)

# Queries for November

## Grounding for Transformed Lives: Integrity and Simplicity

- What is the interplay between simplicity and integrity in the life of our meeting?
  - How does our meeting embody simplicity and integrity in its structures and practices?
  - How has our meeting considered humanity's impact on the earth's ecological integrity and the ways in which violence and injustice exacerbate this impact?
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- *How do I strive to achieve harmony between my inner and outer commitments in my spiritual journey, my work, my family and my other responsibilities?*
  - *Am I temperate in all things?*
  - *Am I open to counsel regarding addictive behavior?*
  - *Am I involved only with those organizations and activities whose purposes and methods complement my integrity?*
  - *Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me?*
  - *Am I mindful that judicial oaths imply a double standard of truth?*

## News from the Meeting

### Worship & Ministry

This newsletter will reach you in the time between Thanksgiving and the many competing activities of December. The tensions that arose during the election season have now transformed into the unknowing of how the future will unfold. We are in a time of waiting. Christian communities have always set aside this time of year to pay attention to what is to come. Advent means Arrival or The coming. Friends are practiced in waiting for the personal and at times communal experience of the arrival of the Presence in the midst, the Living Christ, the inward Light.....

It is important that we spend time in preparation for receiving Divine Guidance for these times that we live in. It is easy to create our own noise and confusion that will drown out the Fresh Wind of the Spirit as it blows across our souls. Like the servant preparing the home for the return of the owner we must daily attend to what is needed to center our lives in God's holy presence.

This time of waiting will feel short when we are called upon to act in accordance with our best discernment of God's will. For when we light our candle and shine it into the darkness, Darkness will roar back "Put out that light, what right do you have to be here?" It is the preparation we do in this time of waiting that prepares us to answer with love and compassion, for our light will illuminate pain and suffering. The light of our candle will remain pure and not trail the smoke of anger and the need to be the oppressor if we have prepared.

Each year Advent comes as a reminder of the importance of waiting preparation for the Divine knock on our inward portal. Have we prepared so that we can say as Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." And as Jesus said, "not my will, but yours, be done". These statements were made with full knowing of the consequences to their lives.

Our time of waiting is not a time of inactivity. Alfred Delp wrote from prison to his congregation: "Light your candles quietly, such candles as you possess, wherever you are." Search your spirit and discern what is your candle. Purify its light in the refining love of God and let it guide you wherever you are. Peace be with you

## Leaf Raking Day and Warm Fellowship December 7 - 8:30 am to 1:00 pm



The seasons go round and round. Summer yields to Fall, and its beautiful colors, smells and warmth begrudgingly yield to winter. Yet this is how the blessed creation prepares for the new life of spring. The community here at Plymouth has for generations now celebrated the change of season with a day of fellowship together clearing leaves from those areas that need to be cleared for the children activities and for reducing building maintenance.

The work of clearing leaves is secondary to the opportunity to come together in common effort. A time for catching up with one another and meeting members of the community that one has not known before. Amidst the stories and the laughter, the moving of leaves becomes lighter. Any chill that the weather may bring is easily dispelled by the multitude of soups, chilies and deserts that await the hard workers of the day. Come for all or any portion of the day. We will begin around 8:30 am and break for lunch around 11:30. Bring a rake if you have one, if not there are always extra about. We clear the leaves without aid of blowers in keeping with the communities Green Minute to reduce the use of carbon in activities on the Meeting Grounds. We rake only the areas needed in respect to the role that leaves and dying plants play in the ecosystem. See the following article

### Care of Yards and Flower beds

The Xerces Society and many other conservation organizations are urging us to tweak our fall garden clean up to support the wildlife that overwinters in our yards. You may have heard that it is important to "leave the leaves" because they provide cover for overwintering insects. Check out these recommendations from the Xerces Society about what you can do instead of bagging up your leaves and flower stems. Learn the reasons for:

- Leave the leaves, or move them just a bit
- Avoid shredding leaves; let the bugs do that for you
- Turn those fallen branches and logs into a brush pile habitat
- Leave the soil (and sleeping bees) undisturbed
- Wait until spring is underway to trim stems and clean up

To understand these recommendations, go to the Xerces website:

<https://xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves>



By Chiswick Chap

### A Message From our Clerk

Friends,

*After participating in a Quarterly Meeting session, I find myself led to get "re-involved" with the Quarter. Several ideas of how we can possibly share our common sense of current Quakerism arose. With consultation and discernment, I offered to serve as clerk of the Quarter. My understanding is that my name will be brought forward during the next Quarter in Second Month and if approved, I will begin to fully clerk in Fifth Month.*

*Plymouth will need a new clerk and our nominating committee will begin its work. If you have questions or concerns, or possibly interested in serving, please reach out.*

Thanks,  
Mike.

# Obituary



Mr. Seeley and his wife, Ruth, championed international peace and equality for all people their entire lives.

Courtesy of the family

## Robert A. Seeley, conscientious objector counselor, international peace activist and writer, has died at 81

Robert Seeley, son of Margery Seely a member of our Meeting died on October 4<sup>th</sup> of this year. Robert was active in our Meeting as a young man

and then at Germantown Meeting. His work with Central Committee for Conscientious Objection (CCCO) was grounding and for those of us who were counseling young men in the post Viet Nam war era. He authored the Handbook for Conscientious Objection and the Draft Counselors manual. These are a few of the early fruits of his lifelong work for peace and social justice.

Robert and Ruth (his wife) spoke with authority that comes from lives lived in commitment to striving to understand the root causes of conflict and with a gifted insight that help others to understand and act on them. His obituary can be found at the Philadelphia Inquirer:

<https://www.inquirer.com/obituaries/robert-seeley-obituary-philadelphia-conscientious-objector-peace-activist-20241023.html> It provides a more complete summary of a very full and rich life. Our deepest sympathy and prayer for comfort and Divine accompaniment goes out to the Seeley family.

Robert Seeley aims to counter military recruiters' "propaganda" in high schools.

### Peace activist encourages anti-military activism

By Reid Kanaley  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

**LANDSDOWNE** — With no war on, and no draft, what is there for Robert A. Seeley to do?

Well, this week, Seeley, director of the Philadelphia-based Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, has been writing a speech that he hopes will spark a new round of anti-military activism in the region. He wants no less than an assault — a peaceful one, of course — on the public high schools, to counter the efforts of military recruiters. He is scheduled to deliver the talk Sunday evening at the Lansdowne Friends School.

"This is a very strange time of transition for all of us," Seeley said in an interview. "Historically, you only have to think about these

things because of a draft." Seeley has just written a manual, "Choosing Peace: A Handbook for Objectors to War." He said he hoped to enlist help in making appearances in schools where recruiters are active.

He said volunteers could set up literature tables or even go before school boards to oppose new high school-based units of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, JROTC, and other military-oriented programs for students.

Unlike its college-level counterpart, the JROTC is not officially meant as a recruiting tool. Nationally about a quarter million students are involved in 1,600 JROTC units. Two years ago, Congress voted to double the number of units by 1996. See **PEACE** on MD10



Robert A. Seeley says that, without a war or a draft going on, this is a "very strange time of transition" for peace activists.

This story about Mr. Seeley appeared in The Inquirer in 1994. Newspapers.com

## News from the School Welcome Alumni

PMFS will continue their tradition of inviting alumni back to join their teachers, the students, administrators and families the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 27. Meeting members are invited to join in the fun and class performances at 10:30 in the gym. This year the students will be singing river-themed songs.

Also, mark your calendars for another PMFS tradition - the Winter Wassail and Sing on Friday, December 20th in the Corson Lobby The Winter Wassail and Sing is always held the day before Winter Break. Specifics will follow in next month's newsletter.

# Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples

## Working Group:

### Indian Boarding schools

“The last Indian boarding school in the United States closed in 1973. Indian boarding schools were institutions established in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the aim of assimilating Native American children into mainstream American society. These schools were often run by religious organizations, such as the Catholic Church\* or various Protestant denominations, and were supported by the federal government. The boarding schools aimed to eradicate Native American culture and language, and to replace it with European-American customs and values.



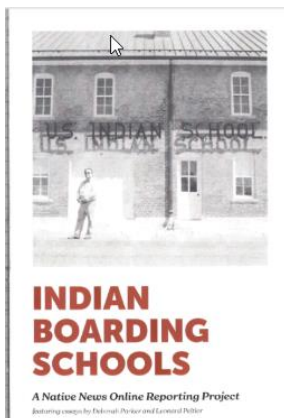
Native American children\*\* were forcibly taken from their families and sent to these schools, where they were forbidden from speaking their native languages or practicing their cultural traditions. They were given new names and forced to adopt Christianity as their religion.

The last Indian boarding school, the Riverside Indian School in Oklahoma, closed its doors in 1973. By this time, the government had begun to recognize the harmful impact of these schools on Indigenous communities. The policies of forced assimilation were criticized for their cultural genocide and violation of human rights.” [Native Tribe Info](#)

\*Quaker Yearly Meetings also participated

\*\*as young as 3 years old

### A new book for our Meeting Library – Indian Boarding Schools – A [Native News Online](#) Reporting Project



This book is a selected collection from the 210 articles that were written since the discovery of the mass grave of 215 children found at a boarding school in 2021. It provides a background of Indian boarding schools, firsthand accounts of the impact of this schooling by students, and the lasting impact on children of students and grandchildren. There are articles about the meaning of the return of those who died in the schools to their communities. Stories about what it was like to be a student in these schools. Stories of what individuals and tribes are doing now to heal the generational trauma that these schools have caused to the Indigenous peoples. To understand current Indigenous affairs, one must know the history of the Indigenous peoples of this land. A formative event in the centuries of trauma they have endured is the establishment

of boarding schools. This small book is an excellent gateway into beginning to understand the impact of the schools the US government set up in which Quakers participated.



## News from Abington Quarter Home and Care Committee

Members of Abington Quarterly Meeting in good standing have various sources of help available. Our Quarter is most fortunate to have funds to help members. The Home and Care Committee has been empowered to address the needs of members. We have funds to aid older Friends, and more limited funds to help other members of the Quarter. We also help older members plan and make needed changes in living arrangements and in provisions for health care. We encourage members to consider making plans for their later years while they are still in good health. It is far more difficult to make living adjustments when the situation is urgent. Members of the Abington Quarterly Meeting Home and Care Committee feel a great responsibility to address the needs of members of the Quarter. We ask Monthly Meetings to inform their members of the assistance available.

### **General Fund for Aging**

The Home and Care Committee of Abington Quarterly Meeting is authorized to approve payments from income on the endowment of the General Fund for *Aging "...for the assistance of elderly members of Abington Quarterly Meeting in need of a home... without regard to the location or sponsorship of the home in which the member is a resident.... This purpose [may also] be accomplished by assisting members in residing in their own homes or apartments...."*

Payments may include assistance with entry and monthly fees to a continuing care community and Friends Life Care at Home. Older members requesting assistance are asked to sign Letters of Intent making any assistance provided, to the extent funds will be available, a priority claim on the estate of the recipient or, when applicable, the estate of the surviving spouse. An older member is age 65 and above.

### **Swing Loans**

When funds are available, we are able to provide interest-free loans to members who are between selling a home and entering a care facility. These loans are to be repaid after the sale of the home.

### **Prescription Drugs**

Funds are available for prescription assistance to all older Abington Quarter members. The Home and Care Committee will reimburse 50% of a member's prescription costs and costs for durable medical goods, which may include glasses, hearing aids or walkers. These funds are available without financial disclosure. A person's request is all that is necessary. A potential recipient is asked to sign a Letter of Intent providing for a return of the assistance received. The letter is similar to the letter described for assistance under the General Fund for Aging except that repayment is capped at 10% of a Friend's net taxable estate for Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax purposes.

If you need more information on any of these forms of assistance, please contact Rebecca Cratin or Bonnie Miller.