

# The Tote Bag

PYM Religious Education  
and Family Resources



Warm Greetings, Friend!

One of the core elements of PYM Youth Programs is **youth discernment and meeting for business**. Starting with the Children's program, each age group has their own approach to experiential learning about Quaker practice. Witnessing youth-centered meeting for business, led by middle school and high school clerks and recording clerks, is one of my favorite parts of Sessions and other gatherings. These Friends are the future, and the *now* of Quakerism.

This hands-on learning and practice is happening in our local meetings, too!

The **Story of Junior Meeting for Business at Buckingham Meeting**, is a wonderful example. Gratitude to Amy Connelly for sharing! From the article:

*"We used Quaker process to decide what order everyone would present in, and all took turns sharing of themselves and listening attentively to the light in others. [...] It seems to be giving the kids a chance to develop their own community with appreciation for each individual, as well as a sense of belonging within the group."*

I hope you'll read the rest of the inspiring story of how Friends at Buckingham Meeting centered the children's leadings -- LEGOs and minutes included!

In service and joy,

**Melinda Wenner Bradley**  
Youth Religious Life Coordinator  
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Recipients are subscribed to the PYM Religious Education Thread List and the Youth Programs Thread List.

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**Covid-19 updates that impact upcoming PYM programs will be shared on PYM.org and on Youth Program Facebook pages.**

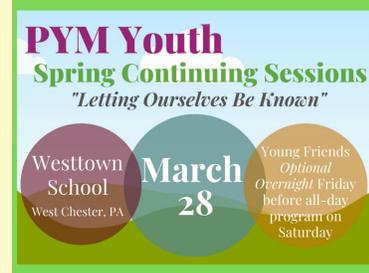
***Click here for a helpful resource to explain Covid-19 to children.***

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## PYM Programs for

# Youth & Families

Please share in your meeting!



**March 28:** Spring Continuing Sessions at Westtown School! Learn more about the day-long program and register here: [Recipe for Youth Programs at Spring Continuing Sessions](#)

**April 18:** [Quaker Family Meetup](#), Abington Meeting (3-5:30pm)

**May 2-3:** [Spring Family Overnight](#), Camp Darkwaters, Medford, NJ

[Print the Family Meetup/Family Overnight flyer to share with Families of children in K-5th Grade!](#)

**May 1-3:** [Camp Swatara weekend for Middle School & Young Friends](#)

**July 29 - August 2, 2020 at the College of New Jersey**

***"Quaker Camp" for PYM Youth at Annual Sessions!***

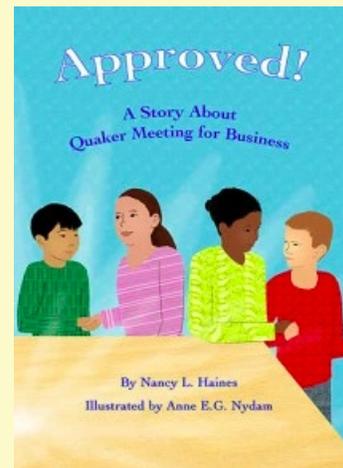
Youth Programs for Children (K-5), Middle School Friends, and Young Friends (high school) will include workshop time with the Sessions Resident Artist, poet Zenaida Peterson, and making music with [City Love](#). Field Trip Friday means visits to [Snipes Farm](#) (Children) and [Grounds for Sculpture](#) (MSF & Young Friends). There will be lots of time for play, fellowship, and exploring the theme "Letting Ourselves Be Known."

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## REsource Sharing:

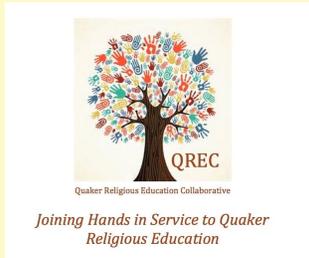
### **Approved! A Story about Quaker**

**Meeting for Business** is a great introduction to Quaker decision making for children. Available from QuakerBooks of FGC, and also published in Spanish, the book uses a "real life" situation and simple, clear language to introduce Quaker decision-making and help children learn the basics of Quaker process. Includes queries, a glossary, and a brief overview of junior meeting for business.



### **Quaker Earthcare Witness Curriculum: "Earthcare for Children"**

QEW's revised curriculum is designed to *"help our children ages 5 - 12 walk gently over God's Earth through interactive and fun activities. In the lessons, we will experience the Earth as our home, see how we share our home with God's creatures, and learn how we can behave in caring ways for our world."* We are using this curriculum in our Children's program this year at West Chester Meeting, as part of our theme, "Stewardship as Spirit-led Witness" -- it is a treasure chest of ideas! Each chapter includes suggested songs, scripture, a wide variety of activities, closing, and take-home pages.



**March Conversation Circles**  
hosted by the Quaker RE Collaborative:  
Conversation Circles are 1 to 1.5 hour online discussions hosted on Zoom. The same conversation happens twice in a week at different times, and is minuted and audio recorded.

**Walk Gently Over the Earth: RE for Sustainable Living**  
Friends, young and old, find joy and inspiration in the natural world, yet we are challenged by a mounting environmental crisis. Join this conversation with Friends from Quaker Earthcare Witness to explore resources to help young Friends and their families lead sustainable lives and advocate for the environment in a spirit-led way.

**Tuesday, 3/17, 1:00 PM ET**  
**Thursday, 3/19, 8:00 PM ET**  
**[Register on the QREC website](#)**

**More information, and online Resource Library, at [www.Quakers4RE.org](http://www.Quakers4RE.org)**

**Are you interested in more conversation, support, and sharing with Friends involved in religious education and youth work?**



The 2020 Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) conference will be August 14-16 in Hickory, North Carolina.

If you're interested in this support for registration and travel, please be in touch with the Youth Religious Life Coordinator.

***PYM has funding to support Friends attending!***

**Save the Date!**  
**Coming in Fall 2020...**



**Mandated Reporter Training led by PA Family Support Alliance** from 10-1, followed by brown bag lunch and **presentation/discussion of child and community safety policies and practices in local meetings**. More information on the event page of the PYM website: [www.pym.org/event/child-safety-and-mandated-reporter-training/](http://www.pym.org/event/child-safety-and-mandated-reporter-training/)

**Saturday, October 24**  
**10am-2:30pm**

**Cherry Street Room  
Friends Center  
Philadelphia, PA**

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**"I still have a question about  
resources, programs . . .  
or a great idea to share!"**

**[Click here to email the Youth  
Religious Life Coordinator](#)**

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends  
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